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As an Official Journal

THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is supplied regularly to every member of the following Societies:—

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

South African Pharmaceutical Association.

Pharmaceutical Society of Natal.

Otago Pharmaceutical Association.

Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland.

Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia.

Pharmaceutical Society of Western Australia.

Tasmanian Pharmaceutical Society.

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THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY,

OUR DIARY for 1896, which will be presented free to all subscribers to THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, is now in active preparation, and the publisher is booking space for advertisements in it. There is no better medium for advertising all kinds of goods handled by the drug and chemical trades, for in addition to its universal distribution, its daily use in thousands of pharmacies and offices ensures that the advertisements will appeal to buyers of goods every day of the year. The results are, therefore, the best possible, and quite warrant advertisers in taking good space and paying special care to make their announcements comprehensive and useful. The publisher will gladly give full particulars to inquirers, and furnish a list of the towns throughout the world where the people who will receive the DIARY are in business.

Summary.

THE Scotch shale-miners' strike has collapsed (p. 480).

In our trade-report section we print several *materia medica* and other notes (p. 502).

We give a further selection of American formulae for medicinal specialities (p. 500).

RETAILERS have been fined for selling compound liquorice-powder and tincture of rhubarb of low quality (p. 486).

THE Madras Board of Revenue has made an important ruling in regard to the stocking of spirits by chemists (p. 481).

THERE is the promise of a good poll for the Irish Pharmaceutical Council election. Three new men are in the field (p. 479).

WE give exterior and interior views of the new pharmacy which Mr. G. T. W. Newsholme has opened in Sheffield (p. 490).

CONCLUDING our report of the British Association, we give abstracts of several of the papers, including one by Professor J. R. Green on "Diastase" (p. 491).

THE high price of orris root is still maintained, and supplies being deficient, these matters are referred to in our comments upon the position of the article (p. 494).

WE give some personal notes regarding the late Mr. W. H. Kirby, assistant-manager to Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., and also report the death of two travellers of that firm (p. 501).

A CHAPTER in the history of the Sequah Medicine firm has been told in the Bankruptcy Court in connection with the failure of one of the introducers of the medicine into this country (p. 487).

DR. BRESLAUER has made some observations in regard to the septicity of ointments, showing that lanoline and cold-cream are the most satisfactory bases. Upon this we base some comments incorporating the observations of Mr. Duncan, of Edinburgh (p. 493).

Two turpentine fires at chemists' shops are reported this week. One resulted from the boiling over of some turpentine in the manufacture of furniture-paste, the other from the vapour of a nearly empty turpentine-cask becoming inflamed (pp. 478-9).

WE published last week a formula in reply to a correspondent who wanted one for chartreuse, and we now print an official note respecting this. "Chartreuse" is a registered trade-mark, and we are informed officially that the formula which we gave is incorrect (p. 508).

WE report the first annual meeting of Parke's Drug Stores (Limited), whereat a satisfactory statement was submitted, and it was announced that the company intend to have forty shops. Price's Patent Candle Company have been doing so well this year that the 16*l.* shares have gone up to 35*l.*, and a good interim dividend has been declared (p. 488).

THE unqualified assistant to a Glasgow doctor has been prosecuted under the Pharmacy Act for selling laudanum. The special feature of the case was that he sold two lots of laudanum, one to a child of 10 years and the other to a child of 6 years. His employer, the doctor, gave evidence with the object of leaving it doubtful whether the laudanum was sold by the assistant or by himself, said he had sold laudanum to a child of 6 (p. 482).

SEVERAL Pharmacy Act prosecutions have been tried in Edinburgh. Dispensing a prescription containing chloral hydrate, and selling Bow's Liniment containing opium, cost one unqualified assistant twelve guineas. Two surgical-instrument makers who sold some of Seabury's bichloride-of-mercury tablets were fined 1*l.* and one guinea each. A photographic chemist whose daughter had sold to a witness 1 oz. of corrosive sublimate was charged with having kept open shop for the sale of poisons. The Sheriff, after considering the case, has come to the conclusion that the proof of one sale of poison was not sufficient to justify the charge (p. 485).



English News

The Editor is obliged to correspondents who send local newspapers containing items of interest to the trade. He will be further obliged if such paragraphs be marked in all cases.

Drug-contracts.

Mr. A. Dunstan, of Farnham, has been appointed chemist and druggist to the Farnham Board of Guardians.

The Warminster Board of Guardians announce that no tender has been received for the supply of trusses.

Messrs. Hickman & Son have been awarded the contract for the supply of surgical appliances and medicines to the Bridgwater Board of Guardians for the ensuing year.

The Halifax Board of Guardians have accepted the tender of Mr. Herbert W. Seely, chemist, 14 Southgate, Halifax, for drugs and to provide a dispenser for the next six months.

The tender of Mr. W. J. Graves, of Bedford, for the supply of carbolic acid at 2½d. to the Bedford Board of Guardians has been accepted. No tenders were received for the supply of "Sanitas" or "Sanitas" soap.

The Guardians of Gravesend and Milton (Kent) Union have accepted the tender of Mr. Biggs, High Street, Gravesend, for the supply for the ensuing half-year of raw linseed-oil at 1s. 8d. per gallon, boiled linseed-oil at 1s. 9d. per gallon, and size at 1s. 9d. per firkin.

The Strood Board of Guardians at their last meeting accepted the tender of Mr. S. J. Hart, Chatham, for the supply of "Sanitas" soap at 28s. per cwt., sulphur at 6s. 3d. per cwt., linseed (crushed) at 12s. 9d. per cwt. Mr. A. B. Acworth, Strood, secured the contract for the supply of "Sanitas" fluid at 8s. 3d. per dozen pints.

The Cannock Board of Guardians have accepted the tender of Mr. L. Adams, Cannock, for the supply of saltpetre at 3d.; of Mr. Thomas Fereday, Bridgtown, for linseed-meal at 18s. per cwt.; of Mr. T. W. Garland, Cannock, for Calvert's carbolic soft-soap at 30s. 6d. per cwt., and soft-soap at 8s. per firkin; of Mr. D. W. Clarke, Cannock, for Calvert's carbolic soap (No. 9) at 30s. 6d. per cwt.

Wine-licences.

Licences to sell wine by retail to be consumed off the premises have been granted to—

Mr. Samuel Martin Hibberd, of Newbridge Crescent, Wolverhampton, and of the Drug and Dispensing Stores (Limited), 228 High Street, West Bromwich.

Mr. Dusart, manager of the Sussex Co-operative Drug Company, South Street, Worthing.

Turpentine Boiled Over, and 200*l.* worth of Fixtures were Burned.

A serious fire occurred on September 12 at the shop of Mr. George, chemist and druggist, Pentre, Rhondda Valley. Mr. George, jun., was making some furniture-paste, and the composition, consisting of turpentine and beeswax, bubbled over the saucepan on to a gas-jet underneath. Mr. George instantly removed the pan, which was enveloped in flames, and while conveying it out of the shop the burning mixture trickled on to the floor. In a few minutes the fixtures were ablaze. Fortunately, a neighbouring grocer had a portable Queen's fire-manual ready charged with water and carbonic-acid gas, and by means of this apparatus the fire was extinguished before the arrival of the brigade. The damage is estimated at about 200*l.*

Congress of Homœopathic Practitioners.

The annual congress of the British Homœopathic Association was held at the Great Northern Hotel, Leeds, on September 19. About fifty gentlemen attended from various parts of the kingdom. Dr. E. M. Madden (Bromley, Kent)

presided. The subject of the presidential address was "Recent pathological investigations on theories, with special reference to certain points which seem to bear on the doctrine *similia similibus*, and on Hahnemann's speculations as to the *modus operandi*." Dr. Madden claimed in respect of recent pathological investigations that, whilst the self-styled rational practice was changing and shifting its ground, homœopathy in its essentials remained as it was given to the world by Hahnemann, being founded on observed facts and the effects of poisons on diseases. Next year's conference was fixed to be held in London, and that of 1897 at Bristol. For next year's meeting Dr. Dudgeon was elected hon. president, Dr. A. C. Pope (Grantham) president, and Mr. Dyce Brown (London) vice-president.

Athletic Druggists.

The staff of Messrs. Dakin Brothers, wholesale druggists, had their second athletic sports on Saturday last at the Epping Forest Cycling Track. The 100 yards running handicap was won by J. W. Ware (scratch), who also carried off the first prize in the one-mile handicap. W. Hammond (20 yards start) won in the one-mile cycle handicap, and the office beat the warehouse in the tug-of-war. After the contests a feast at the King's Oak was enjoyed, and a musical evening followed.

Plymouth and District Chemists' Association.

The annual conference of this Association will be held early in October. A deputation from the Pharmaceutical Society is expected, and accommodation has been reserved at various hotels for visitors and members at a distance. Further details of proceedings, which include a conference on trade matters in the afternoon, and a dinner at the Stonehouse Town Hall in the evening, may be obtained of the Secretary to the Reception Committee, Mr. A. D. Breeze, Station Road, Plymouth.

The junior members of the Association held a meeting at the Foresters' Hall on September 19, at 9 P.M., when Mr. J. D. Turney gave a further lecture on *materia medica*, which was much appreciated by those present. The Chairman, Mr. E. A. Hodge, read a letter of resignation from the junior secretary, Mr. H. O. Westcott, which was received with much regret. The next lecture will close the series on *materia medica*, and an examination will be held to compete for prizes offered by the President of the Association.

Stealing a Chemist's Watch.

At the Gloucester Police Court on September 21, Thomas Knight, aged 12, was charged with stealing a silver watch and chain value 30*s.* the property of Charles Steward, chemist's assistant, on September 5 last. The prosecutor stated that he was in the employ of Mr. Walwyn, chemist, of Southgate Street, Gloucester, and that on the day in question he went to the New Dock, Hempsted, to bathe, depositing his clothes on the bank, and leaving the watch and chain in his waistcoat pocket. He noticed the prisoner near the clothes at the time, and when he had dressed he found the watch missing. He at once gave information to the police. The watch was subsequently handed to a policeman by a man, to whom the prisoner having sold it for 9*d.* When arrested, prisoner said he found the watch near the prosecutor's clothes. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and the bench sentenced him to receive 12 strokes with the birch rod.

The Locum-tenens and the Cash-box.

Mr. Frederic Gall, Arundel Street, Landport, has had unpleasant experience of the vagaries of a locum-tenens. On returning from a holiday he found the shop shut, the key of the front door on the counter, the key of the cash-box carefully placed on the lid, but the cash even to the bottom copper of the till was not visible, neither was the locum or luggage. Needless to say he left no note behind giving an explanation of such unusual conduct.

Early Closing.

The chemists and druggists of Redcar and Coatham have decided to close their places of business each Wednesday afternoon from October to May inclusive.

Chemists at Cricket.

Burgoyne-Burbidges Cricket Club brought their season to a close last week with a match *versus* St. Mark's, Kennington, when they gained a fairly easy victory. The scores were: St. Mark's, 12; Burgoyne-Burbidges, 52. B.B.'s chief scorer was Ryley—19 not out. Out of sixteen matches played, nine have been won, six lost, and one drawn.

The Chemists' Assistants' Association.

The following programme has been arranged for the half-session, October to December, 1895:—October 3, Inaugural Address by the President; October 11, Smoking-concert at the Frascati Restaurant; October 17, Paper: "Some London Waters," by Frank R. Stephens; October 24, Short papers by members; October 31, Paper: "The Commercial Application of Electrical Energy," by John F. C. Snell, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.Inst.E.E. (at the conclusion of this paper the members are invited by Mr. Snell to visit the St. Pancras Electric Light and Power Station, and thus see many points of the paper practically illustrated); November 7, Paper: "Pharmaceutical Politics," by J. Harrison, J.P., Vice-President Pharmaceutical Society; November 14, Annual Conversazione at the Portman Rooms, Baker Street; November 21, Discussion: "Work and Policy of the Federation of Local Associations," introduced by a paper from Dr. Symes, of Liverpool; November 28, Paper: "Jaborandi-leaves of Commerce," by E. M. Holmes, F.L.S.; December 5, Paper: "Some B.P. Infusions and their Concentrated Representatives," by R. A. Cripps, F.I.C.; December 12, Paper: "Alchemy," by A. C. Meyjes; December 19, Cinderella Dance at the Portman Rooms.

Fire.

A fire occurred on Monday last in the oil-warehouse of Mr. Councillor Maud, chemist and druggist, Pontefract. An assistant went with a light for some turpentine. The cask was nearly empty, and the vapour from the oil caught fire, and the whole cask was at once in flames. The lad ran out and gave the alarm. Meanwhile, several men procured buckets, and getting water from a pump close by, a somewhat steady flow was kept upon the flames, while other casks of turpentine were rolled away. The brigade then arrived, and all cause of danger was at an end in a few minutes. Adjoining the warehouse are spirit-vaults, powder-stores, and a benzoline-store belonging to other tradesmen.

Green Fluted Bottles for Poison.

On Monday Mr. Edwin Hooper (coroner) held an adjourned inquest at Smethwick respecting the death of James Bastable, aged one year and eleven months, who died from the effects of drinking from a bottle which had been obtained from the West Bromwich District Hospital, and which had been kept in the house for about three months. The bottle contained atropine eye-drops. The Coroner said he thought that in such an institution as the District Hospital fluted bottles and colored labels should be used for poisonous drugs. The jury returned a verdict of accidentally poisoned, and they recommended the Coroner to communicate with the hospital authorities, requesting them in future to make some distinctive mark upon the bottles to show when they contained poison. The Coroner said he had no doubt the wishes of the jury would be carried out by the hospital authorities.

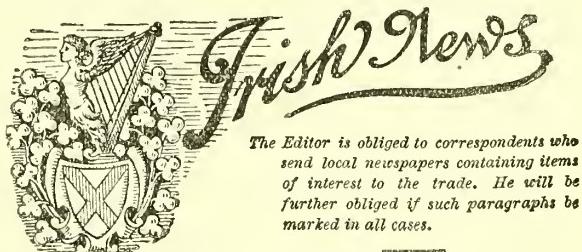
Carbolic acid Poisoning.

On Monday last Eva Hopkinson, aged 19, under-housemaid to the Ven. Archdeacon Brooke, at Halifax Vicarage, was found lying insensible on the floor in one of the rooms, where she had been working. It was found that she had taken some carbolic acid from a bottle in the room. Medical aid was at once summoned, and the patient was taken to the infirmary, where she expired shortly after admission.

When Analysts Differ Somerset House Decides.

At the North London Police Court, on Wednesday, a case was called in which the Bow Vestry summoned John Thomas Enderby, of Lee Street, Limehouse, for selling separated milk to which 15 per cent. of water had been added. Sanitary Inspector Rugg produced the certificate of the public analyst of the Bow district in proof of the allegation, but the defendant denied it, and said he had his sample

analysed by Mr. Redwood, and it had been returned as pure. Mr. Paul Taylor: A very respectable analyst. The Inspector: Yes; but perhaps that certificate does not refer to the sample of milk which I took. The Clerk (Mr. Hobbs): Yes. It is the same number on the certificate as upon your bottle and certificate. Mr. Paul Taylor: On this certificate of Dr. Redwood I cannot convict. Will you withdraw the summons? The Inspector: I hardly care to do that in the face of the certificate of the public analyst. There is a third sample which might be sent to the Somerset House analyst. Mr. Paul Taylor: Will you send it? The Inspector: The defendant may do so if he pleases. The Defendant: Oh, no. I have paid for my analysis, and it is returned as pure. The Inspector: It is only half-a-guinea. I will take the responsibility, and no doubt will get it back in costs when the independent analysis of Somerset House is made known. Mr. Paul Taylor: At any rate, I will adjourn the summons to enable the Local Board to take what action they may deem fit.



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Poor-law Union Contracts.

Tenders for one year's supplies of medicines and medical-appliances will be considered by the Guardians of Oughterard, co. Galway, on October 3.

Mr. P. N. White, pharmaceutical chemist, Sligo, has been appointed drug and surgical-appliance contractor to the Guardians of Strokestown Union. Four others tendered.

Messrs. J. Calvert & Co., chemists, Lurgan, have been appointed drug and medicine contractors to the Lurgan Union. Nine tenders were received, the prices ranging from 51/- to 122/-.

New Candidates for the Council.

The Council election on October 7 promises to be of some interest, as, besides the seven outgoing members of Council, there are three new candidates for pharmaceutical honours—Messrs. James Guiler, Patrick Kelly, and R. W. McKnight, members of the Society. The associate druggists appear to be satisfied with things as they are, as there has been no effort to increase the number of their present representatives, one of whom, Mr. Samuel Gibson, is seeking re-election. Messrs. Guiler and McKnight are both Belfast men, and are in business there on their own account—Mr. Guiler in Crimean Road and Mr. McKnight in Carlisle Circus. Mr. Kelly has "coached" a large number of the younger pharmaceutical chemists, and is probably one of the best-known pharmacists in Ireland.

Death from Drinking Methylated Spirit.

An inquest was held at Dundalk on Monday concerning the death of Peter Traynor, a furniture-polisher, who died in the workhouse infirmary the previous morning. Deceased had, according to the statements of his fellow-workmen, been in the habit of drinking methylated spirit, and had been dismissed from his work in consequence. A doctor found him ill in a lodging-house, suffering from delirium with gastritis, very weak pulse, and unable to take any food, and his liver was also diseased. The jury found that deceased died from excessive drinking of methylated spirit.

Personal.

Mr. J. A. Stewart, L.P.S.I., has been appointed manager to Mr. Agnew's Old Park Road branch, Belfast.

Mr. Thomas Coughlan, L.A.H., apothecary to the Clare County Infirmary, has been appointed dispensary officer to the Ennis Workhouse.

Surgeon MacDowell, L.R.C.S.I., L.M., L.A.H., of the firm

of MacDowell & Co., "State apothecaries," 49 Grafton Street, has appointed Mr. Walter J. Healy, L.P.S.I., manager of his establishment.

A Dublin Apothecary Drowned.

At Dublin, on Saturday last, an inquest was held on the body of Mr. Thomas McKeogh, apothecary, Charlemont Mall, who on the previous evening was found drowned in the Grand Canal. No evidence was forthcoming to show how deceased got into the water, and the jury returned a verdict of found drowned.

Pharmaceutical Chemists' and Apothecaries' Assistants' Association of Ireland.

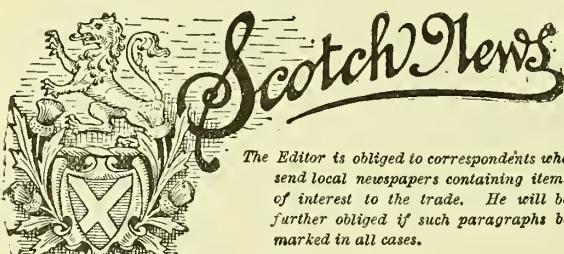
At the meeting of this Association on September 20, Mr. H. C. Meyrick, L.P.S.I., showed the necessity for a new Pharmacopoeia; and Mr. R. Wilkin, L.P.S.I., contributed a paper on "Pepsin."

Company Pharmacy.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland have appealed to the higher Court in Dublin against the decision of the Magistrates dismissing a prosecution brought by the Society against Messrs. Alexander Boyd & Co. (Limited), Lisburn, for keeping open shop for compounding medical prescriptions. The case is listed for hearing early in October.

Belligerent Hairdressers.

A number of Dublin hairdressers met last week and indulged in amusing "tall talk" concerning the Poisons Act. Their "protection" fund would enable them to fight not only the Pharmaceutical Society, but the whole world. The pharmacists did not deal with the sale of poisons from a public point of view, but from a selfish motive—they illogically contended that their vigilance was disinterested while themselves the most interested of all. What difference did it make whether the seller of poisons was or was not qualified? None. It would be different if the sale of poisons by unqualified persons constituted a national danger, but it did not. The pharmacists relied on the Act of Parliament to cloak their selfishness. The Pharmaceutical Society would be very glad to receive from the hairdresser a handsome royalty for the privilege of allowing the latter to retail certain poisons at second hand, but this arrangement would not suit "Joe," and so on, according to sample.



The Scotch Oil trade Dispute.

The Scotch shale-miners' strike has collapsed, and the manager of the Broxburn Oil Company, as the result of an interview with the men, has reported that all are now anxious to resume work, and that the output is up to the average. Young's Paraffin Company likewise report in the same sense, and add that the employés, having abandoned the proposed restrictive policy of working only four days a week, have resumed the usual six days' working.

The Glasgow and West of Scotland Pharmaceutical Association.

The executive of this Association announce that in future the annual subscription from country members will be 2s. 6d., while that of city members will remain, as heretofore, at 5s. The Association considers "that the increased energy in seeking a practical way to improve the position of the general body, which chemists throughout Great Britain now show, is largely due to the efforts of this Association." We have no desire to damp the enthusiasm of our well-satisfied

northern friends, but we should be glad to know of any abnormal manifestation of increased energy which has been displayed in any practical way towards the improvement of the position of chemists since the Glasgow Association was formed two or three years ago.

Mr. W. L. Howie, F.C.S., of the "Scottish Mountaineering Club," is to give a lecture to the Association on the Scottish Alps, illustrated by 140 limelight views, on October 19.

Took Benzine for Sanitas.

On Sunday last Mrs. Finlayson, wife of a caretaker at Falkirk, became suddenly ill and speechless. Medical aid was procured, and it was found that Mrs. Finlayson, who had suffered from a sore-throat, and had been recommended to take sanitas, had taken benzine in mistake. She died about an hour later. She was 68 years of age.

Happens in Scotland too.

A Scotsman correspondent warns the public against carrying boxes of safety matches and potassium-chlorate pellets in the same pocket. By the pellets rubbing against the outside of the match-box he has ruined a new suit and burnt a hole in the drawing-room carpet.

French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

A SUICIDAL EXPERIMENTALIST.—Alfred Balthazar, 25 years of age, attempted to commit suicide last week in a somewhat novel manner. Ignoring all the approved methods of self-destruction, he conceived the idea of endeavouring to bring about death by means of an internal explosion. The course he followed was to swallow flowers of sulphur and chlorate of potash in cachets. These he washed down with water and then patiently awaited the desired explosion. An atrociously painful diarrhoea was the only result of his ingenuity, and his shrieks of suffering attracted the neighbours, who had him conveyed to the St. Louis Hospital.

A MAYOR PHARMACIEN.—M. Merry, pharmacist and ex-Mayor of Gien, whose fraudulent practices in connection with the supply of medicaments to the hospital of his town secured for him a term of imprisonment some time ago, was released from gaol last Saturday. He has already come forward as a candidate at the municipal elections which are to take place next Sunday, and it is curious to note that his election, not only as councillor, but also as mayor, seems certain. Last month (August), while still in prison, his name headed the poll in the elections for the General Council of his department. The sentence passed on M. Merry deprives him of his own electoral rights, and he is unable to hold any public office. His popularity with the Radical party seems to be the cause of the movement in his favour.

THE PROPOSED NEW PHARMACY LAW.—It appears that the Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, which has the new Pharmacy Bill under consideration, has decided to receive no further delegations on the subject. The General Association of French Pharmacists has consequently addressed a letter to the Committee resuming the evidence already given verbally to previous committees. One of the principal points dwelt on is the necessity of organising "Disciplinary Chambers" consisting entirely of pharmacists elected by their colleagues for the inspection of pharmacies. It is felt, however, from what has already transpired in the debates on the text of the proposed law, that neither the Chamber nor the Senate will be favourable to such a course, and that the best that can be hoped for will be the selection of special inspectors.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF ANTI-DIPHTHERIA SERUM.—The syndicate of pharmacists of the Somme Department have found a grievance in the fact that their Prefect has established several dépôts for the free distribution of anti-diphtheria serum in certain hospitals which have no pharmacist attached, but they have been able to get no satisfaction in the matter, as the law on the subject voted last April contains a special paragraph to the effect that the serum can be distributed under the control of a doctor in "certain establishments, other than pharmacies, designated by the

administration." It also stipulates that bottles can be distributed to the indigent poor free of charge. The Pasteur Institute has been caught tripping on one little point, inasmuch as serum has been sent out without the date of manufacture being marked on the bottles, as the above-mentioned law requires.

ESTIMATING THE AMOUNT OF AN ODOUR—At a recent meeting of the Paris Society of Public Medicine and Professional Hygiene, M. Gérardin read a paper on the subject of "How to Ascertain the Amount of Odorous Substances in a Given Place." His method consisted in extracting the animal or vegetable emanations from the atmosphere from which the odours arise, condensing them in a small volume, and afterwards testing the amount of the organic matter dissolved. This process seems to have been suggested to M. Gérardin by the works of the ninth and tenth century Arabian chemists, on the preparation of perfumed water by means of a still. He finds that by adding a small quantity of vapour to the atmosphere without pressure, an odour can be removed from the air and aromatised condensed water obtained, on the theory that perfumed-water vapour carries an odour with it on condensing.

ANALYSIS AT THE MUNICIPAL LABORATORY.—Two employés of the Paris Municipal Laboratory have got into trouble through fraud in the matter of analysis. It appears that in one case a laboratory-inspector connived with certain milkmen against whom complaints had been lodged, the result being when the milk was tested at the laboratory it was found to be unadulterated. The evidence aga'inst the inspector does not seem to have been sufficiently serious for prosecution, and he was simply dismissed. In the second case, one of the chemists was found to have saved himself the trouble of analysing samples given him to test by marking all alike "excellent." The chemist has been obliged to accept an inferior post in consequence. As a result of these circumstances, it has transpired that an association exists amongst the carters of the Paris wholesale milk-dealers. As many as 600 men are said to belong to the organisation, and they are stated to have an important reserve fund to meet cases of prosecution. The frauds in this connection are supposed to have amounted to as much as 48,000 francs (1,920*l.*) per month. The method pursued was to dilute the milk while on the round, and the result was that small milkmen who act as retailers were frequently the victims of prosecution. The police are using every effort to break up the association.

Foreign and Colonial News.

THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY had its eleventh general meeting last month. The Society now has 838 active members, 54 associate members, and 8 honorary members, making a total of 900—an increase of 110 over the previous year—and 95 new members are proposed.

AN ARTIFICIAL LARYNX.—The Melbourne correspondent of the *Times* telegraphs that Professor Anderson Stuart, of the University of Sydney, has invented an artificial larynx for a man who had lost his voice. The invention is a singular success. The changing of certain reeds contained in the instrument makes the voice soprano, tenor, contralto, or bass, at will. [Professor Anderson Stuart was formerly an assistant with Messrs. Carruthers & Allen, chemists, Dumfries.]

THE BALTIC AMBER SUPPLY.—The supply of amber on the Prussian coast in the Baltic is now practically limited to the output from the mines at Palmenken and Kraxtelle in the province of East Prussia. Last year this output aggregated about 220 tons. Besides this, about 7 tons were washed up by the sea along the coast, but this scarcely paid the expense of collecting. In 1894 only one-seventh of the raw amber which came to Dantzig was good enough to be worked into beads and ornaments the rest had to be melted into varnish, and only fetched 3*d.* per lb. for that purpose. The "ambroid," or small pieces of amber pressed together by machinery, meets with a good sale, on account of its low price.

THE SALE OF EXCISABLE LIQUORS BY INDIAN CHEMISTS.—Mr. Bugen, acting-inspector of the Salt and Akbari

Department, Madras, recently made a raid on the chemists of his district, and prosecuted those who were found to have in their possession, for trading purposes, brandy and other foreign liquors. The authorities dismissed the summons against the chemists; but upon the question being put to the Board of Revenue whether chemists can possess and sell brandy, &c., without a licence, the Board has ruled that chemists may possess brandy and other spirits to any quantity, but that they can only sell them in conjunction with other medicines, and not alone, in quantities laid down in prescriptions from professional medical men compounded by them.

A NEW CANDLE FACTORY IN CONSTANTINOPLE.—A candle-factory, built in accordance with a concession granted to Salih Munir Bey, Secretary-General of the Turkish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, has just been opened at Pasha-Baghtché, in Constantinople. The inauguration was a very ceremonial affair, and attended by a whole batch of Pashas, Eeys, and Effendis, to whom the proprietors gave a luxurious *déjeuner*, preparatory to which "four sheep were slaughtered at the corners of the edifice, while the imam said a prayer for the Sultan in the large machinery-hall before the assembled visitors, employés, and police-agents." The factory, which has almost cost a million francs, was only begun last year. There are altogether eighteen separate buildings, twelve of these being machinery-halls; the rest are used as stores. They occupy altogether 6,000 square metres. All the machinery is French. About 6,000 kilos. of candles can be manufactured daily, but for the present not nearly so large a quantity will be produced. The staff of the establishment consists of sixty-two mechanics and other workmen. A number of the candles manufactured by the new society were sent to the Palace on the anniversary of the Sultan's accession day.

TUNISIAN SALTS.—The Tunisian Government have granted a concession for the sole right of working and extracting the natural salt deposits of the country, the largest of which occur at Soukra, and a company, with a capital of 20,000*l.* in 100*l.* shares, is now being organised to exploit that concession. It is expected that the deposits, which extend over an area of about 9,000 acres, can be made to yield annually 500,000 tons of fine, and 2,000,000 tons of somewhat inferior, salt. After the mines have been worked three years the Tunisian Government shall be entitled to a royalty of 2*g.d.* per ton of salt extracted. It is expected that the salt can be laid down at the shipping port of Kamart, at a cost of 3*s. 2d.* per ton, and can be delivered in London at a cost of 14*s.* per ton. The promoters also declare that they expect to be able to manufacture caustic soda, and deliver it in London at a cost of 15*s.* per ton. The draft prospectus, which has been placed in our hands and from which we take these particulars, further mentions that Soukra salt has been found to contain 97.76 per cent. of chloride of sodium, 0.11 per cent. of chloride of magnesium (*sic!*), 0.31 per cent. of sulphate of magnesia (*sic!*), 1.6 per cent. of sulphate of calcium, and 0.22 per cent. of earthy matter.

FOREIGN CHEMICAL DIVIDENDS.—The directors of the Gesellschaft für Chemische Industrie at Basle, in Switzerland, propose a dividend of 17 per cent. against 14*½* per cent. in 1894. The Actiengesellschaft für Kartonagen-Industrie, who manufacture cardboard goods, have made a net profit of 141,569*m.*, against 273,365*m.* in 1894. The shareholders will receive 10 per cent. dividend. A similar dividend (out of a profit of 159,300*m.*) will be paid by the Münden-Hildesheim Indian-rubber-works of Gebrüder Wetzel. The United German Oilworks in Mannheim have netted a profit of 570,172*m.*, but will only pay a 5-per-cent. dividend, against 6*½* per cent. in 1894. The Chemische Fabriken Harburg-Stassfurt, late Thörl & Heidtmann, of Hamburg, will distribute a dividend of 9*½* per cent. The net profit of the Deutsche Gold- und Silber-scheideanstalt in Frankfort-on-Main has been 1,122,082*m.*, against 1,053,741*m.* in 1894. The dividend will be the same—viz., 15 per cent. The United Brush-factories (Vereinigte Pinsel-fabriken) in Nuremberg will distribute a dividend of 8*½* per cent. against 8 per cent. last year. An exception to all these prosperous concerns is made by the Harkort Chemical-works at Gotha, who propose to distribute only 1*½* per cent. among their shareholders as dividend.

Legal Reports.

PHARMACY ACT PROSECUTION IN GLASGOW.

SELLING LAUDANUM TO CHILDREN.

IN Glasgow Sheriff Court, on September 20, before Sheriff Guthrie, Hugh Lees, assistant to Matthew Dunning, at 75 Nelson Street, Tradeston, Glasgow, was charged at the instance of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain with having, on April 23, he not being a registered pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist, contravened sections 1 and 15 of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, in that he (1) sold to Joseph Sime, a child of 6 years, residing at 61 Dale Street, a quantity of laudanum, being a preparation of opium, and (2) sold to Charles Sime, a boy of 10, another quantity of laudanum.

The prosecution was conducted by Mr. T. B. Morison, Glasgow; and the accused was defended by Mr. William Gemmell, jun.

Mr. Gemmell at the outset raised certain objections to the relevancy of the complaint. He first objected that the heading of the complaint did not refer to the Criminal Procedure Act, 1887, and to the Pharmacy Acts. Secondly, he held that it was incompetent under the Pharmacy Act of 1868 to libel the two sales of poisons set forth in the complaint as separate offences, in respect that the Act contemplates the selling, or keeping open of a shop for selling, poisons as one continuous offence, and quoted Justice Hawkins' decision as to the interpretation of the Apothecaries Act in support of his contention. And, thirdly, he noted that the complaint asked for penalties for two separate offences, only one, he argued, being competent upon the facts as stated.

Mr. Morison said the objections were too late, because the accused had already pleaded. He would, however, waive that point. He consented also to amend the complaint so as to obviate his friend's first objection. The other objections had no bearing upon prosecutions under the Pharmacy Acts. The words of the 15th section of the Pharmacy Act contrasted very strikingly with the words in the Apothecaries Act—"A person who shall act as an apothecary." It might take a number of sales to make a person "act" as an apothecary, but the superior Courts, both in Scotland and England, had settled conclusively that any person who made a single sale was liable to the penalty. The accused here was libelled with having made two sales, and if he did make two sales he was liable to two penalties.

The Sheriff allowed the complaint to be amended so as to obviate the first objection; but in regard to the other points his Lordship held that the case quoted in connection with the Apothecaries Act did not hold under the Pharmacy Act, and repelled the second and third objection. At the request of Mr. Gemmell, however, he made a note of his objections.

Lees then pleaded not guilty, and evidence was heard.

Mr. J. Rutherford Hill, assistant-secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society, said he received the papers in this case from the Crown for prosecution. The name of the accused did not appear on the Society's register, which he produced.

Mr. Morison: Is there any difference in the appearance of the respondent since last Court day?

Mr. Hill: He has been clean shaved since then. He had a slight moustache when he appeared here last Court day.

Cross-examined: The register was brought down to December 31, 1894.

You have no record of those who joined your Society between December 31, 1894, and April 23, 1895?—The register is evidence until something to the contrary is produced.

The Sheriff: The question is—Has anybody joined the Society since the date of the register?

Mr. Hill: Several have qualified, and their qualification is produced in another way.

Mr. Gemmell: You have no certificate from December 31 to April 23, as mentioned under the 13th section of the 1868 Act?

Mr. Hill: I do not require a certificate; the accused may.

Mr. Gemmell: But you have to prove that he is not registered?

Mr. Hill: The production of the register is my evidence.

Witness further said that immediately a man qualified he was put upon the register. The prosecution had not been delayed for five months to permit of additional evidence being got against the accused. He got a list of witnesses from the Crown, and he had to precognosce these witnesses. He had not been using means to get another case against the accused. There had been no unnecessary delay on the part of the Society.

Dr. John G. Wilson said that on April 23 he was called to the house of Mrs. Sime in Dale Street. He was told that she had taken laudanum, and he treated her accordingly. Notwithstanding his efforts she died. He had no doubt she died from taking an overdose of laudanum. On the table he found an ounce bottle smelling of laudanum, and bearing one of Mr. Dunning's labels. He sent to Dunning's shop for restoratives, and Dunning accompanied the messenger to the house and assisted him in his efforts to bring the woman round. He did not see what became of the bottle.

Cross-examined: He made very strong coffee for the woman, but she could not swallow it, and then he used ammonia. He sent for two policemen to walk her about the room, and he administered strong salt and water and mustard and water.

Detective Davidson said that on April 24, he made some inquiry on behalf of the Crown into the cause of Mrs. Sime's death. He saw Joseph and Charles Sime, two little boys, and in consequence of what they told him he went with them to Dunning's shop. Dunning was alone in the shop, and they said it was not he who sold them the laudanum. Dunning told witness he had been in the house the night before and took possession of the bottle.

The Sheriff: That is not evidence. It is evidence for a police investigation. I am not going to take second-hand evidence.

Mr. Morison: With all due deference, my Lord, this witness is detailing his own experience.

The Sheriff: He is giving us evidence he gets from other people.

Mr. Morison: I certainly did not ask any question to bring that out, and I do not wish him to give second-hand evidence.

Mr. Gemmell: The point is—Did my client sell this poison?

Witness said he went with the two boys to the shop again on May 3, and on that occasion Lees was in the place, and both boys pointed him out as the person who sold the poison to them. Lees, in reply, said he did not sell any poison to them on April 23, adding that he would not sell laudanum to such young boys. Witness added that both Dunning and Lees seemed to have changed their appearance since he saw them last by shaving their faces clean.

Cross-examined: He did not take the precaution of showing such young boys Dunning and Lees together, and asking them to pick out the one who sold the laudanum. Both boys identified Lees without the slightest hesitation.

Elizabeth Sime (18), daughter of the woman who poisoned herself, stated that on April 23 she saw her brother Joseph coming into the house with a bottle of laudanum in his hand. It was a small bottle with a red label, and Mr. Dunning's name was on it. Her mother was in the room at the time, and witness took the bottle and emptied its contents in the "sink." When her mother entered the kitchen and was told what she had done, she got the bottle, and saying she would "get more," left the house. When she returned she went into the room, emerging shortly afterwards with an empty bottle and remarking that she had swallowed the contents of it. Later in the evening witness was sent to Dunning's shop by her father to inquire if the quantity of laudanum her mother had taken would harm her, and was told by the young man in the shop that if she had taken the whole of it it would kill her. He instructed her to give her mother mustard and water and walk her up and down the room.

Charles Sime, aged 10, having been called to give evidence,

Mr. Gemmell said it would be unfair to his client if the evidence of such a young boy was taken, especially as it was five months since the affair occurred. This was not like a crime of assault committed upon a boy, who would remember what had been done to him.

The Sheriff: It is done every day. If it was a crime—I

am not suggesting it—it was done on this boy. The boy might have swallowed it himself.

The witness then said that he met his mother at the Close mouth on the day in question, when returning from school, and was asked by her to go for fourpennyworth of laudanum. She gave him a bottle and a sixpence. He went to Dunning's shop and was supplied by Lees, who asked him what it was for, and he said it was for his mother's head. He met his mother on the stairs and gave her the laudanum.

John Sime, aged 17, said that Dunning, when in his father's house, lifted an empty bottle and put it in his pocket, remarking that it might get him into trouble.

Joseph Sime, a little boy of 6 years, said that he was sent by his mother to Dunning's shop for laudanum. He got a bottle and gave it to his sister, who spilled it on the floor. That was on the day of his mother's death.

Dr. Matthew Dunning said he was a chemist at 75 Nelson Street. He had a doctor's qualification, having graduated in July last. He had only one assistant—the lad Lees.

And when you are not in, there is no qualified person in charge of the shop?—There is a qualified man consults in the shop—Dr. McMillan. Referring to his visit to Sime's house on the evening of April 23, witness was asked, Did you see a bottle in the house? He replied: I did; an ounce bottle. It had my label on it, with "Laudanum" and "Poison" printed on it.

What became of the bottle?—I took it.

What right had you to take it away?—Well, I took it away without knowing very well what I was doing. I was sorry afterwards that I took it. The woman's life was more in my mind at the time than the bottle. I had the woman on my arm, and I just lifted the bottle.

Why did you take away the bottle?—I answer that I don't know why.

The Sheriff: Your name was on the bottle, Mr. Dunning.

Witness: Yes; and I was sorry afterwards for having taken it.

Mr. Morison: Did you know there had been laudanum in it?—There was a label marked "Laudanum" on the bottle; but whether laudanum had been in the bottle I cannot say.

Do you suggest, Dr. Dunning, that a bottle came out of your shop, having a laudanum-label on it, and yet did not contain laudanum?—It is not likely that it would be labelled "Laudanum" if it did not contain it.

Cross-examined: Lees had been with him for about eighteen months. He came to him as an experienced assistant.

Did you notice that the bottle was labelled in terms of the Pharmacy Act?—Precisely. That was why I asked to see the bottle; to see if it was labelled properly. Witness was very particular in regard to his instructions to his assistants about selling poisons.

As a matter of fact, you only keep a few poisons?—We may keep them, but selling them is another thing. I keep them for the purpose of dispensing prescriptions. Many of them I have not at all.

On that evening I suppose you sold laudanum?—There is nothing commoner, I think, than to sell laudanum. I have no particular recollection of having sold laudanum that evening.

Can you say that the laudanum taken by the woman came from your shop?—No; I cannot say.

Is there any chance of it having come from any other body's shop?—Oh, yes, a good deal of chance.

I suppose there are places where, if a bottle with another chemist's label was presented, they would supply the laudanum without removing the label?—Oh, yes, plenty of them. Mine is a printed label, and the dose is printed on the label, and that does not need to be put on it by the Act. I do that for safety.

By Mr. Morison: He asked to see the bottle in order to see if it was properly labelled.

Would you sell laudanum to a boy six years old?—Yes, I daresay I would.

Have you done it?—Yes, I have done it.

How often have you sold an ounce of laudanum to a child of that age?

Mr. Gemmell interposed, and wanted to know the purpose of the question.

The Sheriff: For the same purpose that many other

questions have been asked to-day, I suppose—for no reason at all.

Witness: How can I answer a question like that? The thing is absurd.

Mr. Morison: Is it the case, Dr. Dunning, you do it so often that you cannot tell?

Witness: It is my affair how often I do it.

The Sheriff: Is it so common, Mr. Dunning, to sell an ounce of laudanum to a child?

Witness: Yes; there are so many habitual laudanum-drinkers, and they get to know and they send in regularly.

Mr. Morison and Mr. Gemmell afterwards addressed the Conr, and

Sheriff Githrie, in delivering judgment, said he could hardly understand why this case had been so tenaciously fought out by both sides. It was a very simple case, and he did not see why it should be aggravated by the circumstance that a poor woman died in consequence of the laudanum being sold. He had nothing to do with the result of the laudanum being sold. If 500 people had died with the same laudanum, that did not affect the offence charged here. It appeared to him, in the first place, quite clear that there was legal evidence to show that Lees was not on the register because there was a clause in the Act, which seemed to have been put there for the express purpose of placing the onus of producing the certificate of registration upon the party accused. If Mr. Lees had been admitted since January 1, 1895, it was for him to have produced the certificate. He must therefore take it that Mr. Lees was not registered according to the Pharmacy Act. With regard to the offence, people had been sent to prison for many years on evidence less conclusive than that brought against Mr. Lees in regard to both of these cases. He had no hesitation in finding him guilty of both. He did not think the penalty ought to be increased because this poor woman died. The penalty would therefore be 2*l*. 10*s*. in each case, or 5*l*. in all, and 2 guineas of expenses.

PHARMACY ACT PROSECUTIONS IN EDINBURGH

ON Thursday, September 19, an adjourned sitting of the Edinburgh Sheriff Court was held, at which a number of prosecutions under the 1st and 15th sections of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, were heard by Acting Sheriff-Substitute Sym. William McCallum was charged with having on or about February 27 last, in the shop of the Edinburgh and Leith Drug Company (Limited), 4 and 5 Crichton Place, Leith Walk, Edinburgh, sold to Thomas Allan a quantity of chloral hydrate, which formed part of the ingredients of a mixture, the prescription for which was produced, and a quantity of opium which formed part of the ingredients of Bow's liniment, both being poisons within the meaning of the Act, he not being a duly qualified chemist, and further with having repeated both these offences on March 6. Accused was defended by Mr. Trotter. When McCallum was called upon to plead,

Mr. Trotter said he had several objections to the relevancy of the complaint. His first objection had reference to the first two charges under which his client was charged with having on or about February 27, 1895, or on one or other of the days of the said month, &c. He pointed out that in the Pharmacy Act of 1852 it was enacted by section 13 that no action or other proceeding for any offence shall be brought after the expiry of six months from the commission of the offence. He submitted that it did not appear *ex facie* of this complaint that the offences in the first two counts were committed within six months, because it said "on one of the days of said month." In support of his contention, he cited a decision in the Justiciary Appeal Court in connection with a trial for cruelty to a child.

Mr. T. B. Morison, who appeared as prosecutor, said if it would meet his friend's approval, he was quite willing to delete the words "or on one or other of the days of the said month."

Mr. Trotter said he did not think that could be allowed. His Lordship could not deal with the case unless *ex facie* of the complaint it was within six months. His second objection had reference to the first and third counts—the selling of chloral hydrate. He contended that chloral hydrate was not named in Schedule A as a poison within the meaning of the Act.

Sheriff Sym said there were powers given to make rules.

Mr. Trotter held that the resolution of the Pharmaceutical Society declaring chloral hydrate a poison, the resolution of the Privy Council approving of the Society's resolution, and the date of the advertisement of these in the *London Gazette*, should be libelled in the complaint. His third objection, which referred to all counts, was that, supposing his client had been guilty of the offences charged, he was libelled under the wrong sections of the Act; that it was the 1st and 2nd, and not the 1st and 15th, sections which had been contravened, the latter being the section which imposed the penalty.

Sheriff Sym: Then all the Bremridge complaints have been wrong from the beginning.

Mr. Trotter said his next objection also had reference to the four counts. The complaint was at the instance of Mr. Bremridge, the Pharmaceutical Society's secretary, but it did not anywhere in the complaint say by what authority he sued for payment of a penalty, or to whom the penalty was payable. He submitted that on all these grounds his Lordship should hold the complaint irrelevant.

The Sheriff said he wished to hear the reply only on the first two objections.

Mr. Morison, with reference to the question of time, held that the case cited was no authority on the point raised, because it applied, not to the relevancy or irrelevancy of the complaint, but to the conviction. Besides, it was perfectly competent for him to move his Lordship to allow him to amend the complaint by the deletion of the words "on one or other of the days of the said month," thus limiting him to the 27th. With regard to the second objection, he contended that it was not required that the complaint should mention that the resolutions of the Pharmaceutical Society had been contravened. He had done all that was necessary when he libelled the section of the Act which gave power to make the resolutions.

Sheriff Sym asked, What about people libelling the resolutions as a matter of practice?

Mr. Morison said the resolutions did not make an offence. He had libelled the sections which made the offence.

After Mr. Trotter had replied to Mr. Morison's arguments, Sheriff Sym said he thought the first objection was a very serious one; but he thought he was justified in granting Mr. Morison the leave he craved to strike out the words which extended the offence to a date prior to February 27. Otherwise, he thought the objection would have been a good one. The second objection was not so difficult, because he thought the resolution of the Pharmaceutical Society to include chloral hydrate in the list of poisons had become part of the Act, and that this poison was a poison within the meaning of the Act. He therefore repelled all the objections, and held the complaint relevant.

McCallum then pleaded not guilty, and evidence was called. Mr. Hill stated that he received the mixture and the Bow's liniment from the witness Tait on February 27 and March 5; that he analysed them, and that he found in the former chloral hydrate and in the latter opium, both of which ingredients were poisons within the meaning of the Act. Cross-examined, he said he did not test the quantity of either of the poisons. The quantity of chloral in the prescription was 15 grs., and there was a considerable quantity of opium in the Bow's liniment. From a drachm of the liniment he got a distinct indication of opium, showing that the opium was there in considerable quantity.

Thomas Allan said he went on February 27 with Joseph Tait for the drugs produced. Tait waited outside the door. The only persons in the shop were McCallum and Weir. McCallum served him with the drugs. He could not see whether anyone else was in the back shop where McCallum made up the drugs, but he saw McCallum moving backwards and forwards with the prescription and the bottle. He gave the drugs to Tait when he got outside the shop.

Joseph Tait, assistant to Mr. Hill, said that when Allan was in the shop he stood on the window-sill and looked in to see what was going on. He had a clear view to the back shop, and there was no one there but McCallum.

Mr. Morison produced a copy of the *London Gazette*, dated December 14, 1877, containing an entry of the resolution of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society including chloral hydrate as a poison, and asked that the maximum penalty should be imposed. The case had been clearly

proved, and there was no evidence to contradict it. It was a case for a substantial penalty.

Mr. Trotter submitted that the quantity of poison sold had not been disclosed, and contended that as there was not a sufficient quantity to hurt anyone the complaint should be dismissed. He quoted two English cases—those of Dell and Arniston—in which the Judges refused to convict, because it was held that the quantity of poison sold was insufficient to entitle the plaintiff to recover the penalty imposed by the Act.

The Sheriff found all the four charges proved, and imposed a penalty of 2*l.* 10*s.* for each offence, with two guineas of expenses.

Mr. Trotter asked his Lordship to state a case to the Justiciary Appeal Court.

MR. MORISON then intimated to his Lordship that he wished to abandon the case against Ernest Elias Greville, who was charged with selling a poison—corrosive sublimate—at his premises, 12 Teviot Place, Edinburgh, on May 27, he not being a qualified chemist. He explained that Greville had a doctor's qualification, but that he had not registered himself at the time when the alleged offence was committed. He had since put his name on the register.

Mr. Norman McPherson, S.S.C., who appeared for the respondent, said that seeing the case was abandoned he did not desire to say anything.

The case was therefore dropped.

JOHN WHITELAW pleaded guilty to having on May 27, he not being a duly qualified chemist, within the premises of Archibald Young & Son, surgical-instrument makers, 61 Forrest Road, Edinburgh, sold to Alexander Spence a quantity of corrosive sublimate, forming an ingredient in Seabury's bichloride-of-mercury tablets.

Mr. Morison moved for sentence, and said the tablets were labelled "Poison." This was a case of dealing out poisonous drugs to any person who might chance to come in.

Mr. Trotter explained that this drug was used by medical men for cleaning their instruments, and that the accused's employer was under the impression that this being a proprietary medicine it came within the exceptions in the Act. The seller was under the belief that the man who asked for the tablets was a medical man. He thought justice would be done by imposing a nominal penalty.

The Sheriff imposed a penalty of 1*l.*, with one guinea of expenses.

ROBERT WHITELAW, who pleaded guilty on the previous Tuesday to a similar offence, committed in the premises of Messrs. Gardner & Son, surgical-instrument makers, Forrest Road, was now subjected to a similar penalty, which was at once paid.

JOHN M. TURNBULL was charged with having, on May 27, he not being a duly registered chemist, in his shop, 6 Rose Street, kept open shop for the retailing, dispensing, and compounding of poisons, and with selling a quantity of corrosive sublimate; and further with having, between September 1 and 25, unlawfully used or exhibited the name or title of chemist in connection with the shop occupied by him.

Mr. Trotter, who appeared for the accused, said he wished his Lordship to note the same objections to the relevancy as he had submitted in the case of McCallum, with the exception of the date.

Mr. Morison said that the second objection did not apply in this case. Corrosive sublimate was scheduled in the Act, and the offence charged was keeping open shop for the sale of poisons.

The Sheriff said he would note the objections.

Accused pleaded not guilty. From the evidence it appeared that the witness Spence went into the shop on the date mentioned, and bought 1 oz. of bichloride of mercury. He was served by one young lady with the bichloride and by another with two photographic plates. No questions were asked him before he was served with the poison, for which he paid 3*d.* It was an open shop, where any person might

purchase bichloride of mercury, cyanide of potassium, chloroform, and oxalic acid—poisons commonly used in photographic preparation. The shop was situated at the corner of a lane. Above the front of the shop were the words "Chemist—J. M. Turnbull," and round the corner the word "Photographic," which was intended to read on with "Chemist." The word "Photographic" could only be seen when approaching the shop from one side. In cross-examination, Speuce said he had never been in the shop before, and never had any dealings of any kind with Turnbull. He had a relative with the same initials as himself, a chemist in Linlithgow.

Mr. Turnbull in the witness-box said he was a photographic chemist, and always designated himself as such. The words "Photographic Chemist" were above his shop-door and in his catalogue. He sold chemicals for wholesale purposes, and in his catalogue he stated that the poisons scheduled under the Pharmacy Act of 1868 were sold only in wholesale quantities and for photographic purposes. He had two daughters in the shop, and he had frequently instructed them not to sell poisons unless for a wholesale purpose or to people in the trade. One ounce was a wholesale quantity.

Cross-examined, witness said he sold to photographers and chemists and wholesale chemical houses. It would not have been sold to this man Spence unless his daughters had known him as a chemist. The retail price of this chemical was 3d. per oz. He would sell that quantity to a photographer.

The Sheriff asked in what sense witness described this as a wholesale sale.

Witness replied that this was a limited trade, and they knew all their customers very well. They always refused poisons to strangers.

Mr. Morison moved for a conviction on both counts. He held that the offences charged were offences within the Act, and submitted that on the evidence of the respondent himself the case against him was clearly proved, because he had frankly said he would sell to any person he knew an ounce of perchloride of mercury or cyanide of potassium, or any other poison used in photography. That was clearly a contravention of the statute, because selling wholesale meant selling to people who would retail, and did not apply to photographers or persons who simply happened to be known to the unqualified man who kept open shop.

The Sheriff said that only one sale had been proved, and asked if that constituted keeping open shop.

Mr. Morison stated that in a House of Lords case Lord Blackburn had said that in dealing with the offence of keeping open shop it was necessary to prove one sale. That was as good evidence as could be got. He did not know how many sales would require to be proved. Mr. Turnbull had admitted that any of these photographic chemicals might be given to any person provided he knew them.

The Sheriff asked if in the case of Tomlinson it was decided that the principal was liable.

Mr. Morison said it was left open, but he thought the inference was that the principal was liable. In that case the question was whether or not the master was liable in the penalty for the sale. The question in the present case was whether or not the master was guilty of having kept open shop for the sale of poisons. It would be very difficult for him to make out that Mr. Turnbull, under the 15th section, sold that poison. His proper remedy in such a case would be to go against his daughter.

The Sheriff said the difficulty was that he had really used exactly the same evidence that he would have done against the girl for selling.

Mr. Morison said he had gone a step further, and proved that Mr. Turnbull was the known owner of the shop, and that he carried on a retail business there. With regard to the title of "chemist," he said the defence set up here was a ridiculous defence, and had been negatived already in England, not certainly with the word "photographic," but with other words of a similar nature. He contended that what was struck at by the Act of 1868 was any unqualified person using the words "chemist and druggist," or "chemist" or "druggist" by themselves, or in conjunction with any other word. Mr. Morison referred his Lordship to the cases of Kelsall, Stockport, October 10, 1882, who used the words "analytical chemist"; and G. F. Noble, Leeds, July 11, 1888, and Shand, Liverpool, July 20, 1889, who used

the words "wholesale druggist." There was, however, no decision on the question in the High Court.

Mr. Trotter held that the respondent should be assailed on the ground, first, that he was a wholesale photographic chemist, and therefore did not come under the Act. He referred to the catalogue sent out by Mr. Turnbull, in which he expressly stated that poisons were only sold in wholesale quantities, and Mr. Turnbull had spoken to that himself. It was said that this was a retail sale, but even if that was so the penalty should be got from the party who sold it.

The Sheriff asked what Mr. Trotter would say supposing he thought this was a single retail sale, and that that was keeping open shop for retailing, &c.

Mr. Trotter said it was a sale made by Mr. Turnbull's daughter, and Mr. Turnbull was not liable for that. They could not argue that because one retail sale was made that that was keeping open shop.

The Sheriff: Mr. Turnbull said some things not very consistent with that.

Mr. Trotter, passing on to the second point, said the framers of the Act had been at special pains to give a list of the various names which no one except qualified persons could assume.

The Sheriff said that, so far as it went, it indicated that they intended to prevent unqualified persons from representing themselves as dispensers of drugs.

Mr. Trotter said the preamble supported that view, and he submitted that, seeing the Act was so specific, it was clear this complaint should be dismissed. With regard to the cases quoted by Mr. Morison, he said they were different, because they had all the appearance of being ordinary chemists.

The Sheriff said he would reserve his decision in this case for a week.

WILLIAM HUME, surgical-instrument maker and technical chemist, 1 Lothian Street, pleaded not guilty to two charges of a similar nature to those brought against Mr. Turnbull, the poison in this case being cyanide of potassium. Mr. Hill stated that the respondent in 1890 came under an obligation not to sell these poisons, but he had broken that undertaking, and now refused to comply with the Act unless he was restrained by law. Mr. Hume he knew to be an eminent chemist, but he was not qualified under the Act.

Thomas Allan, who procured the poison, stated that he was asked to sign the poison-book on receiving.

The respondent, who spoke on his own behalf, said he made no pretension to being a pharmaceutical chemist, and did not wish to be one. He quoted a correspondence which took place between him and the Pharmaceutical Society in 1883.

The Sheriff reserved his decision in this case also.

JUDGMENT.

Sheriff-Substitute Sym gave judgment on Thursday in the actions against Mr. Turnbull and Mr. Hume. In the case of Turnbull, his Lordship held it proved that he had given instructions to his assistants to sell poisons scheduled in the Act only to photographers, and that although the quantity sold in this case was a retail quantity, it did not constitute keeping open shop. He therefore held the charge not proved. With regard to the second charge, he found it proved that Turnbull had no intention of representing himself to be a pharmaceutical chemist, and as in the English cases quoted the convictions were all against persons clearly carrying on such a business, he held that charge also not proved. In the case of Hume, he said, the respondent admitted that the sale was made in the ordinary course of business, and as it was a retail sale he must find the charge proved. He imposed the nominal penalty of 1s., with 1l. 1s. of expenses. He refused expenses to Turnbull. Mr. Morison, for the complainant, asked his Lordship to state a case under both charges to the High Court.

SALE OF COOPER'S SHEEP-DIP IN IRELAND.

At the fortnightly Petty Sessions of Claremorris (Mayo), on September 19, before Sir Henry Blosse, Bart. (presiding), and Mr. E. J. MacDermott, R.M., Acting Sergeant MacCormack prosecuted Mr. John J. Noone, merchant, under the

Pharmacy Act of Ireland, on two charges that he did on July 12, 1895, keep open shop for selling and did sell a poison—to wit, arsenic—contained in Cooper's sheep-dipping powder, to complainant at Claremorris, he not being a person properly qualified in that behalf according to law. Mr. J. Sheridan, solicitor, defended.

Acting-Sergeant MacCormack deposed that on July 12 he went into Mr. Noone's shop. Mr. Noone was not there at the time. He asked Mrs. Noone, Did they sell Cooper's sheep-dip? She replied in the affirmative, and witness then purchased a package, for which he paid 1s. He then told her he would have to make a report of the sale to the registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society in Ireland, as the package in question contained poison. Mrs. Noone said she was under the impression that her husband got leave from the head-constable to sell the dip. Witness replied that he did not know anything of that. He would make the report, but he was sure if the head-constable gave permission he would not go back on his word. Witness made the report accordingly, and received instructions to take out these summonses.

The defendant pointed out to the Magistrates that there were two summonses served, while there was only one offence.

Mr. Sheridan said they were both brought under the Act—one for keeping open for sale, and the other for retailing and dispensing.

Mr. Noone: I am pleading guilty, and, in doing so, I must say I have been selling the dip since 1871.

Mr. Sheridan: Mr. Noone has directed me to plead guilty, your Worships. He carries on a very extensive business in Claremorris, and was wholly unaware that the dip was poison, or that there was any penalty against selling it. He had a conversation with Head-Constable Cummins, and, whatever that conversation was, it left my client under the impression that he was entitled to sell the dip. The fact of his going to the head-constable showed his desire to observe the law, and I would ask you, under the circumstances, to impose a mere nominal fine.

Mr. MacDermott: I am not aware that we are bound by any fine.

Mr. Sheridan: For the first offence the penalty is not to exceed 5l.

Sergeant MacCormack said there was a decision in the Queen's Bench which fixed the fine at 5l., no less penalty being provided for.

Mr. Burke, solicitor, corroborated, and produced the Act.

Mr. MacDermott said it was clear they must impose the full penalty of 5l.

Mr. Sheridan: If I prepare a memorial to the Lord Lieutenant, your Worship, for the remission of the penalty to a nominal amount, might I ask you to recommend it?

The Chairman: I think we might agree to that.

Mr. Sheridan thanked their Worships, and Mr. Burke stated that, in a previous case under the Act in which he was professionally concerned, and where a like penalty was imposed, the Lord Lieutenant, on memorial, reduced it to 2l.

Head-Constable Cummins said Mr. Noone some time ago came to the barracks and mentioned to him he was selling dip. He understood that the dip he was selling was that which was advertised as non-poisonous. It was quite possible they might have misunderstood each other.

The Sergeant said he was willing to withdraw the second summons if his superior officer consented.

District-Inspector Yeldham gave his consent, and the second summons was withdrawn.

[This case was briefly reported last week, page 471.]

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

COMPOUND LIQUORICE-POWDER.

MR. J. W. SHEPHERD, of Settle, was summoned last week for selling compound liquorice-powder which was certified by the public analyst to be slightly deficient in sulphur. For the defence it was contended that the quantity omitted was very small and unimportant; that no question of pecuniary gain arose, the cost being infinitesimal; that until recently sulphur was not one of the ingredients set out in the British Pharmacopœia; and that the purchaser was not prejudicially affected. The Bench considered that an error had occurred in the mixing, and imposed a fine of 1s. and costs.

TINCT. RHEI CO.

AT Settle Police Court last week, Mr. John Hoar, of Hellifield, was summoned for selling tincture of rhubarb which the analyst certified was deficient in alcohol and contained more water than was official. The defence was that the tincture was sold in exactly the same condition as supplied by Messrs. Goodall, Backhouse & Co., but as the demand for the drug was so very small it had been in stock a considerable time and the alcohol had evaporated. This was supported by Mr. Walker, chemist and druggist, who gave evidence for the defence, and a fine of 1s. and costs was imposed.

Bankruptcy Reports.

Re JOSEPH PITMAN ALCOCK, 73 High Street, Bromsgrove, Chemist.

The examination of this bankrupt, which had been fixed for September 17, at the Worcester Bankruptcy Court, was adjourned because he had not filed necessary accounts in time for them to be scrutinised by the Official Receiver prior to the examination. Mr. Roberts (Bromsgrove) appeared for the debtor.

Debtor appealed for some grant out of his estate, saying that he had walked to the court and would have to walk back, and he had nothing to buy food.

The Registrar said he had no power to make an allowance.

The Official Receiver said the debtor had already been allowed the unusual sum of 5l.

Re WILLIAM SHEARER, High Street, Camberley, Surrey, Mineral-water Manufacturer.

THE following is a list of the principal creditors concerned hereunder:—

	£ s. d.
Barnett & Foster, London	140 0 0
Biddle & Son, Guildford	10 0 0
Bush, W. J., & Co., London	30 0 0
Cannington, Shaw & Co., London	179 0 0
Duckworth & Co., Manchester	16 0 0
Hay, W. (Limited), Hull	53 0 0
Hunt, H. B., London	10 0 0
Maignen's Filtre Rapide Company	35 0 0
Potter, T., Aldershot	22 0 0
Shepherd, W., Reading	64 0 0
Sparvell, D., Camberley	11 0 0
Spooner, E., Bagshot	10 3 0
Williams, T., & Sons, Reading	117 0 0

Re LEON KOKOCINSKI, 72 Blenheim Crescent, Notting Hill.

THE first meeting of creditors under this failure was held on Thursday, at the London Bankruptcy Court, before Mr. E. Leadam Hough, Official Receiver. In commenting upon the case the Chairman said that the debtor had stated in his preliminary examination that in 1887, in conjunction with a Mr. Hartley and a Mr. Danziger, he commenced the business of the Sequah Medicine Firm. They owned the trade-mark for certain medicines which Mr. Hartley had been selling in the United States of America and Australia. There was a deed of partnership. Mr. Hartley found about 500l., and the other partner about 200l. They commenced at 9 Rose Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, and after a few months removed to 44 Farringdon Street, E.C. Agents were appointed on salary and commission, and travelled with the wares through Great Britain and Ireland. For two or three years prior to 1890 they carried on the business as a registered company under the style of the Sequah Medicine Firm or Company (Limited). The subscribers to the memorandum of association other than the debtor and his partners were nominees who had no interest in the business. The partnership was dissolved when the preliminary company was formed. In 1890 they transferred the business to Sequah (Limited), which was formed with a capital of 300,000l. in 1l. shares. The consideration for the transfer was 250,000l., payable in cash and shares. The public sub-

scribed about 75,000*l.*, and the debtor and partners received 20,000*l.* in cash. Of that amount about 16,000*l.* went for costs of promotion and registration, 2,000*l.* or 3,000*l.* went to Mr. Hartley, and the balance was paid to the debtor and Mr. Danziger. The remainder of the purchase-money was received in shares, which were subsequently mostly sold for sixpence each. Since then the debtor has had nothing to do with the company. The debtor came to this country in 1886, and had at various times been connected with other businesses, including opticians, soap-powder manufacturers, and dealers in fancy goods. He had traded at the German Village, Chicago Exhibition; the American Saloon, Lemberg (Galicia) Exhibition; and the Empire of India Exhibition, Earl's Court. A receiving order was made against the debtor on September 11, upon the petition of Mr. W. H. Hartley, and the accounts filed by the debtor show debts 710*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*, against assets 4*l.* The failure was ascribed by the debtor to loss in trading at the Lemberg Exhibition, owing to the effect which an outbreak of cholera there had on the attendance, to loss at the Antwerp Exhibition, owing to the excessive competition by exhibitors, and to law-costs.

Mr. F. Marriott attended the meeting on the debtor's behalf, and said no offer could be made to the creditors, who left the case in the hands of the Official Receiver to be wound up in bankruptcy.

The public examination of the debtor is fixed for October 25 at 11 A.M.

Appended is a list of the principal creditors, viz.:

Unsecured.

	£	s.	d.
Behrens, W., Hanau, Germany	150 0 0
Berger, W., Hatton Garden	60 0 0
Bromet, A., & Co., 38 Jewin Street, E.C.	40 16 5
Danziger, E., c/o London solicitors	96 0 0
Hartley, W. H., Silsden, Yorks	104 0 0
Seigel & Bennett, Pforzheim, Germany	150 0 0
Sequah (Limited), Farringdon Street, E.C...	110 0 0

Gazette.

PARTNERSHIP DISSOLVED.

Van der Lely, C. H. L., and Simpson, H. A., drug and gum merchants and wine-merchants, New London Street, E.C., under the style of Van der Lely & Simpson.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACTS, 1883 AND 1890.

RECEIVING ORDERS.

Main, Henry James, Formby and Bootle, mineral-water manufacturer and bottler.

Shakerley, Benjamin, Penzance, chemist and druggist.

Personalities.

MR. CHARLES W. WHITE has gone East again, and will shortly be at his headquarters in Bombay.

MR. PROSPER H. MARDEN has been appointed dispenser to the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool. He will enter upon his duties on October 1.

MR. ROBERT McALLEY left last week for South Africa where he is to make a journey on behalf of Messrs. Oppenheimer, Son & Co. (Limited).

IN connection with the marriage notices in our last issue we have to state that Mr. Walter Hill, chemist, Devizes, is not the Mr. Walter Hill, of Edinburgh, whose marriage was then reported, and the statement that the latter was formerly of Devizes is incorrect.

DR. RUFFER, who has been the director of the diphtheria serum factory of the British Institute of Preventive Medicine, is suffering from an attack of diphtheritic paralysis. Some time ago he was accidentally inoculated with the toxin, and this is the most serious result that has happened.

DR. M. TREUB, director of the Botanical Gardens at Buitenzorg, Java, is now on furlough in Holland, where he lives at Voorschoten. The doctor has not given up his

scientific work, for he has just published an important essay on the localisation, diffusion, and action of hydrocyanic acid in pangium.

THE new President of the American National Wholesale Druggists' Association, Mr. J. C. Eliel, Vice-President of the Lyman-Eliel Drug Company, of Minneapolis, was born forty-six years ago in the village of Frielendorf, in Prussia, where his father, a graduate of Marburg, taught foreign languages and fencing. In 1856 Mr. Eliel, sen., emigrated to the States, and started a drug-store at Laporte, Indiana. His four sons all took up pharmacy as a career, "more from necessity than choice," as the present President N.W.D.A. told the *Oil, Paint, and Drug Reporter*. Mr. Eliel takes a prominent part in the public life of his locality, and is now serving as Mayor of Minnetonka, a residential suburb of Minneapolis. He is said to be a particularly good impromptu speaker.

OUR Paris correspondent appears to have been mistaken when he informed us recently that Sir F. von Mueller, F.R.S., ex-director of the Melbourne Botanical Gardens, was on a visit to the French capital. As the Irishman said, "No man can be in two places at once—barrin' he's a birrd," and unless Sir Frederick is of the Hibernian ornithological persuasion he was celebrating his seventieth birthday in Melbourne at the very time (June 30) when he was supposed to be treading the Lutetian pavement. This event, we learn from the Australian papers, was made the occasion of an enthusiastic gathering by the German residents of Melbourne in honour of the popular baron. The fête seems to have been a great success; in fact, like the "Picknick out at Spraker's Woot," described by Hans Breitmann, "it melt de Soul und fire de Ploot," though it passed off without any of the disasters that afterwards overtook the Spraker's Wood picnickers. The peculiar part about the misunderstanding is that, at the time of his supposed Paris visit, Sir F. von Mueller was expected in London as a delegate to the International Geographical Congress.

IT is probably unknown outside the circle of those who attend the Chemical Society that Mr. Spencer Pickering, M.A., F.R.S., the leading exponent in this country of the hydrate theory of solution, had the misfortune some years ago to lose an eye as the result of a laboratory explosion. This accident has had a peculiar indirect result, for it drove Mr. Pickering to seek health in a partial existence in the country. Nature states that as he had not the means to procure this in the orthodox manner without abandoning his scientific work, he resorted to the somewhat unusual means of getting air and exercise by becoming an agricultural labourer at Rothamsted. From an agricultural labourer to a small farmer and land-owner the steps were not so tedious as is generally the case, and for some few years past Mr. Pickering has turned his attention, after the manner of many landowners, to horticulture and practical fructiculture. He has now, in association with the Duke of Bedford, started an experimental fruit farm at Woburn, which is to be conducted on rigidly scientific principles, for Mr. Pickering is the overseer and he is bringing to bear upon the work that marvellous exactitude for which he is noted in chemical circles.

Business Changes.

MESSRS. AIRS & CO., scientific instrument-makers, have removed to 84 Hatton Garden, London, E.C.

MESSRS. OSCAR MOENICH & CO. have removed from 8 Coleman Street, E.C., to Billiter House, Billiter Street, E.C.

TAYLOR'S DRUG-STORES have taken one of the new shops, lately built in New Street, Barnsley, a street which has been widened by the Corporation.

THE old-established business of Mr. R. B. Gant, 39 Artillery Place, Woolwich, has been purchased by Mr. D. N. Still, of Church Street, Woolwich. Mr. Gant has retired from business altogether.

MR. F. T. SURSHAM, homœopathic chemist, who has occupied Messrs. Leath & Ross's old premises in St. Paul's Churchyard while extensive building-operations were proceeding on the adjoining space, is to remove a few doors down Dean's Court, where he has secured an excellent shop in the new building.

New Companies and Company News.

INNOCUOUS WHITE LEAD MANUFACTURING COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 8,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To enter into agreement with the English White Lead Syndicate (Limited) and F. L. Marshall, and to carry on business as white-lead manufacturers, dealers, and grinders, paint and colour manufacturers and grinders, oil and colour men, dry-salters, &c. The first directors (to number not fewer than two nor more than seven) are Frank L. Marshall and John Cooper. Qualification, 100*l.*

ENEVEV'S CATTLE-FOOD COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 10,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire and carry on the business of manufacturing and selling "Enevèv's Concentrated Cattle-food" and other foods for cattle, to enter into a certain agreement, and to sell the said foods to grocers, chemists, corn-chandlers, &c. The first directors (to number not fewer than two nor more than four) are Wm. F. Garside, Wm. Holmes, and Jno. Reynolds. Qualification, 200*l.* Remuneration, 2*l*. 2*s.* each per board meeting attended, and a share of the profits.

BYRNE'S MEDICAL HALL (LIMITED).—Registered in Ireland on September 21. Capital 1,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire a lease of certain premises known as 12 West Street, Drogheda, to acquire the stock-in-trade, plant, &c., connected therewith, and to carry on the business now being conducted thereon. The first subscribers are:—B. Byrne (993); Mrs. M. A. Byrne, and Mrs. M. G. Halligan, all of West Street, Drogheda; E. Byrne, Bannow, co. Wexford, M.D.; J. P. Byrne, Mohill, co. Leitrim, bank manager; P. K. Byrne, M.D., University, London; Miss A. C. Byrne, West Street, Drogheda; B. Byrne, M.D., 20 Stainby Road, London (the last six subscribers take one share each). Registered without articles of association. Registered office, 12 West Street, Drogheda.

THE ELDIN CHEMICAL COMPANY.—Registered in Scotland. Capital 12,000*l.*, in 600 5 per-cent. preference and 600 ordinary shares of 10*l.* each. Objects: To acquire and take over as a going concern the business now carried on by the Eldin Chemical Company at the Eldin Works, near Loanhead, Midlothian, and to carry on the business of bone grinding and manufacturing bone-meal and chemical manures. First subscribers:—Stair Dickson, retired manufacturer, Myrtle Villa, Lasswade; C. Dickson, manufacturer, Loanhead; R. Kreger Groningen, merchant, Holland; David B. Tod, S.S.C., Bonnyrigg, Midlothian; James Tait, butcher, High Street, Bonnyrigg; John C. Dickson, manufacturer, Loanhead; Robert Adam, candle manufacturer, 90 St. Andrew Street, Leith. The registered office is situated at Loanhead, Midlothian.

CHARLES MATTHEWS (LIMITED).—Capital 3,000*l.*, in 10*l.* shares. Objects: To enter into an agreement with F. H. and C. W. Matthews, and to carry on business as chemists and druggists (both wholesale and retail), drug and patent-medicine manufacturers and vendors, drysalters, tallow-chandlers, &c. The first subscribers (each with one share) are:—F. H. Matthews, chemist's assistant; Mrs. M. J. Matthews; Miss J. H. Cotching; and C. W. Matthews, chemist's assistant, all of 63 Market Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch; Mrs. C. H. Isern, 11 Lower Church Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch; Mrs. M. J. West, and J. L. West, chemist, 3 Market Street, Leicester. The first directors are Francis H. Matthews, Charles W. Matthews, and Jno. L. West. Qualification twenty-five shares. Registered office, 63 Market Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicester.

PRICE'S PATENT CANDLE CO.—An extraordinary general meeting of this company was held on September 20 at the Cannon Street Hotel. Mr. T. C. Wright, who presided, stated that the sole object of their meeting was to declare a dividend. The company's business during the past year had been prosperous, and the profits had considerably exceeded those of 1894, but he wished them all to understand that those profits had been earned in exceptional circumstances. In the first quarter of this year they did a very large business.

The price of paraffin was raised last January, and they and other candle-makers advanced their prices proportionately, but this did not affect their customers who had contracts with them up to the end of March, and who took the largest quantity they could from the company at the lower price. If they took the report for the first half of 1894 it would be seen that they brought forward 8,311*l.* from December, 1893, and that the profit for the six months, less tax, was 25,301*l.*, making together 33,612*l.*, out of which a dividend of 10*s.* a share was paid, leaving 14,862*l.* to carry forward to July, 1894. In the first half of 1895, they brought forward 8,843*l.* from December, 1894, and the six months' profit, less tax, was 35,102*l.*, making together 43,945*l.* The dividend of 15*s.* a share now recommended would absorb 28,125*l.*, leaving 15,820*l.* to be carried forward. Mr. Wright added that the present market price of the 1*l.* shares was 35*s.*, but the board did not altogether view this with satisfaction, because, probably, people who gave this price for them might expect to receive a good dividend on the premium they paid, whereas the company were only earning a dividend on the par value of the shares. The resolution to pay a dividend of 15*s.* per share free of income-tax was carried by the meeting unanimously.

PARKE'S DRUG STORES.—The first annual general meeting of this company was held on September 23, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., under the presidency of Mr. P. Warnford Davis. About thirty shareholders were present. The Chairman, having commented upon the strictures of certain critics who had predicted for the company a short existence, reviewed the prospectus of the company, the anticipations of which, he maintained, had been fully realised. The loss on the Princes Street shop was also dealt with, and the directors were fully convinced that they had taken the right course in closing it. The five stores taken over had realised on an average about 800*l.* per store profit. Brixton heads the list, and Clapham, Balham and Peckham pay exceedingly well. The returns of the Lewisham branch, which had been opened for six months, are very satisfactory. The businesses at Putney, Kensington and Richmond had been acquired too recently to enable a definite opinion to be formed. The last-mentioned is situated in the heart of the town, and good things may be expected of it next year. Some good sites for stores had been offered, and they hoped to acquire forty before they had finished. The stock, amounting to 16,019*l.*, had been carefully taken. It was done in the first instance by the employés, and the figures were afterwards checked by the manager of the stores, then taken to the head office, where they were checked by the secretary and managing director, and finally the extensions were checked by the auditors. It was their intention to apply for a quotation on the Stock Exchange after the capital on the first block had been subscribed, and to this end they proposed to create a reserve fund, and when the shares were quoted they would find they would be of a different value if they had such a fund. They now proposed to issue the remainder of the first block of the share capital, and to give the shareholders a first opportunity of subscribing. Mr. A. Chatto seconded the motion, and Mr. J. Lorimer moved, "That a dividend for the half-year be paid on the preference shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and on the ordinary shares for the year at the same rate, less income tax, payable on September 30." Mr. D. Russell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. After placing 41*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* to the depreciation account, and 2,200*l.* to the reserve, this leaves a balance of 95*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* to be carried forward. The election of Mr. J. Lorimer and Mr. D. Russell as directors was then confirmed, after which other formal business was transacted.

Mr. J. Lorimer (one of the directors of this company), in a letter to us dated September 24, 1895, refers to the note on the directors' report published on page 456 from last week's issue. Mr. Lorimer writes as follows:—"You call attention to the fact that we owe Parr's Bank 3,500*l.*, but forget to point out that we have against this 4,789*l.* 10*s.* of uncalled capital, and which we can call up at any time. As a matter of fact, our total trade liabilities are 4,702*l.* 18*s.*, against which we have very big assets—at least nine times the amount of those liabilities." Mr. Lorimer adds in a postscript:—"We claim to have conferred a great benefit on

retail chemists—in fact, to be their greatest benefactors—by having shown them the way to make handsome profits while still maintaining the integrity of the profession. Such results have never been got before in the first year's trading of any chemist or company."

Marriages.

FIELDSEND—SWIFT.—On September 23, at the Parish Church, Sheffield, Arthur Fieldsend, chemist, Penistone, to Mary Greaves, second daughter of the late Mr. Edward Swift, Penistone.

TURNER-PATTERSON.—On September 18, at St. Anne's Church, Dublin, by the Rev. A. E. Wynne, M.A., John Tyrie Turner, M.P.S.I., 52 Upper Sackville Street, Dublin, to Isabella, third daughter of William Patterson, 35 Prince William Terrace, Dublin.

WILLIAMS—HOWELL.—On September 17, at Grafton (Warwickshire) Parish Church, John Wynne Williams, son of Mr. Edward Williams, chemist, Mold, to Ada Annie, second daughter of Mr. Gilbert Howell, West Hillborough, near Stratford-on-Avon.

Deaths.

BEALE.—Mr. Frederick O. Beale, pharmaceutical chemist, South African travelling representative of Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., died suddenly on the morning of August 29, at the Grand National Hotel, Johannesburg. The deceased gentleman had been with Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. for a number of years, being employed first in their factory and afterwards as traveller. He went to South Africa a few months ago with the object of obtaining some benefit from the African climate, as his constitution was naturally weak and he suffered from consumption. It seems that the disease had made too great progress, however, for the change of climate to be of any value to him. The funeral took place on the day following his death, when several of the local chemists were amongst the pall-bearers.

MORRIS.—On September 8, Edward George Morris, chemist and druggist, late of Deptford. Aged 73.

RICHARDSON.—On September 20, Mr. Alexander Richardson, chemist and druggist, Elswick Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Aged 60 years. Mr. Richardson had been in business in Newcastle for over twenty years. He leaves a widow, three daughters, and one son.

THOMSON.—On Saturday, September 8, at Ryde, Isle of Wight, Mr. E. A. Thomson, a South Coast traveller of Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., Snow Hill Buildings, London, E.C. The deceased gentleman, who was 34 years of age at the time of his death, had had a very varied experience. After his apprenticeship he was engaged in the counting-house of Messrs. Hodgkinson, Stead & Treacher, but afterwards became a dispenser with Mr. Duncan, of Bournemouth. In 1883, he went to Singapore as manager of the English Dispensary and Mineral-water Works, and in 1887 Dr. Leask joined him as a partner. He took a medical qualification while in the East. He returned to England in 1890, and after assisting several medical practitioners he married in 1894, and for a time he and his wife conducted a medical home at South Molton. It was during his travels in the East that he was first seized with an acute form of gastritis, and he has been subject to a recurrence of similar attacks ever since. He was suddenly prostrated by an attack of his old enemy at Ryde while travelling for the firm. Mr. Wellcome went down to see that everything was done that was possible, but the disease terminated fatally a few days after the seizure. Although Mr. Thomson had been only a few months with Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., he had established himself as a great favorite, and as a mark of respect and sorrow a very beautiful wreath was sent by the office staff. Mr. Wellcome attended the funeral. Mr. Thomson lived at Taunton.

Trade-Marks Applied for.

ANY person who has good grounds of objection to the registration of any of the following marks should *at once* communicate with Sir Reader Lack, Comptroller-General, at the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," September 25, 1895.)

"**SELVYT**"; for chemical substances used for agricultural, horticultural purposes, &c., in class 2; also for perfumes, &c., in class 48. By Jones Brothers & Co., 12 York Street, Manchester, merchants. 186,771, 186,790.

"**CITRATE OF CAFFEINE**" and other wording, and signature of applicant, &c., on label; for a medicine for human use. By Alfred Bishop, 17 Speck's Fields, Mile End New Town, London, manufacturing chemist. The essential particular is the *fac simile* signature. 187,108.

Device of cross-bones, surrounded with the letters "V.C.C.C.;" for a corn-salve. By Alfred Verity, Akroydon Villas, Halifax, Yorks. The essential particular is the device. 188,665.

Signature, "Mann G. Valentine"; for meat-juice. By Valentine's Meat-juice Company, 601 Cary Street, Richmond, Va., U.S.A. 189,153.

"**HUNYADI JANOS**"; for aperient natural mineral waters. By Emily Saxlehner, 3 Andrassy Street, Budapest, Hungary, proprietor of mineral-water springs. 152,838.

"**ZAPOL**" and "**ZAROMA**"; for mineral and aerated waters, including ginger-beer. By J. H. Hogg, 5 Nightingale Park Crescent, London, merchant. 182,657, 182,770.

Landscape device of Ben Nevis and signature of applicant; for mineral and aerated waters, including ginger-beer. By Peter MacFarlane, Apothecaries' Hall, Fort William, N.B., chemist. 188,661. The essential particulars are the landscape device and signature.

"**KICHI-NICHI**"; for perfumery, including toilet articles, &c. By J. H. Hogg, 5 Nightingale Park Crescent, London, merchant. 182,307.

"**TRILBY**"; for toilet soaps. By Petre Brothers, 39 Lime Street, London, E.C. 189,286.

LATEST POISONINGS.

There have been seven suicides in Nottingham this month. The last was that of Austin Herbert (51), a herbalist, who killed himself with prussic acid.

Samuel Hird, of Bingley (25), formerly a soldier, was found dead at Saltaire on Tuesday, with a bottle which had contained carbolic acid by his side.

Mrs. Dickenson, a painter's wife, living at Balsall Heath, gave her child a few drops of a mixture of antra and laudanum in mistake for diarrhoeal-mixture, and the child died.

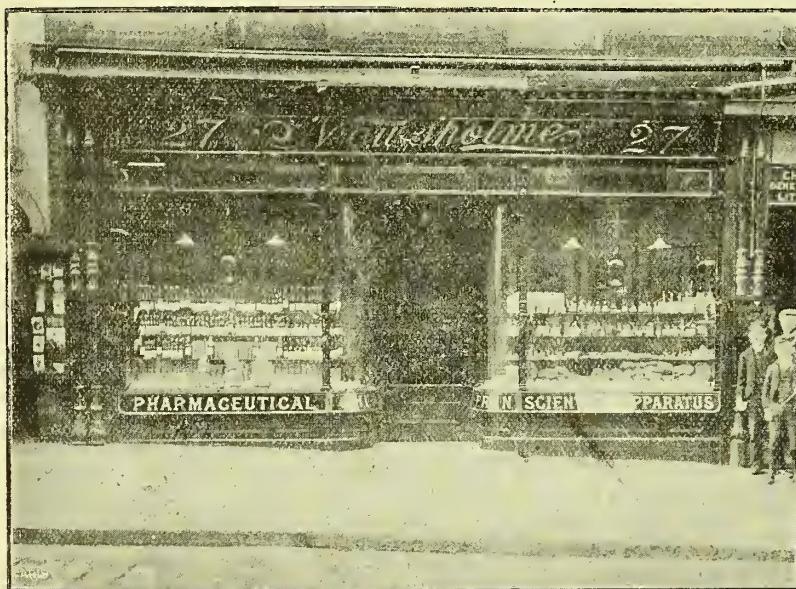
The wife of a trapeze-dealer named Doyle, living at Ancoats, Manchester, was preparing to wash her daughter's hair with acetic acid, and left the bottle on the table for a few minutes, where her little boy (21 months old) found it, and drank from it. He died in consequence.

Cornelius Satterthwaite (73), a fire-light maker, of Manchester, got six morphia-pills from a doctor on Sunday last, with instructions to take one at night to relieve pain. He took the six, and died in consequence.

"**CAMWAL**" announces on the back page of our Supplement this week that cheques have been sent to the winners of their essays' prizes, and they add a few acknowledgment verses which the 5*l.* man has thrown in as a bonus. We hope he will not be tempted by this success into a literary career, under the impression that compositions are usually paid for at the "Camwal" rate.

A New Sheffield Pharmacy.

SOME time ago we illustrated the oldest pharmacy in Sheffield—that curious shop in Market Place which for forty years was known as Radley's, and was bought in 1877 by Mr. G. T. W. Newsholme. It is 150 years since drugs were



first sold in that shop, and now Galen will know it no more, for the hand of the improver is upon it. Some two years ago the Sheffield Corporation, after considering the matter for nearly a quarter of a century, decided to change High Street, which had become a sort of bottle-neck, into a thoroughfare 80 feet wide, by taking down all the property on the side on which stood this old shop. Having no alternative but to give up possession, Mr. Newsholme was fortunate in securing the premises, 27 High Street, which are not only most central, but adjoin the warehouses he has had for some time at the back. Since he took possession of the front premises they have been altogether transformed, and are now one of the attractions of the city.

The shop-front is constructed in the latest modern style, with bent plate-glass ends to the windows, making an attractive entrance-lobby, which is paved with mosaic and marble. The window-enclosures are large and lofty—nearly the full height of the front—the space above being adapted with fan-lights for ventilation. The stall-plates and facia are of plate-glass with incised and gilded letters in very superior style. The windows are fitted with plate-glass shelves, and artistic wrought-iron brackets supporting the carboys. The interior of the shop is somewhat irregular in shape, but this has lent itself to very effective

treatment at the hands of Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Thompson's designer, as will be seen by the accompanying engraving. On the left side of the shop is the long and handsome serving-counter, with showcase front, with pilasters and fluted trusses, giving the needful projection to the counter-top without in the least hiding the cases. A handsome desk is in the usual position near the entrance, and a larger desk with clear plate-glass screen is seen at the far end, making an office for clerk and cashier near the archway across the shop. The fittings behind are handsome, and have mirrored lockers where the ointment-jars generally are. There are double cornices, the upper one forming the ceiling-cornice.

The right side of the shop has a quite unique effect, the inequalities of the wall having enabled the designer to dispose the showcases in artistic corners and curves. The lower cases are covered with marble, and a circular sponge-case occupies the centre. All the upper cases have bevelled plate-glass doors and mirrors, and these, with the dark, richly-figured mahogany, produce an effect which is really charming. The dispensing-counter is of novel form. Starting from the large pedestal case at the end of the wall-fittings in the form of a quarter-circle it extends in a straight line to the archway. The counter is unusually well lighted by means of a side window. The fittings and appliances are all up to date, and we understand that it is one of the most compact counters made in recent times.

The room shown beyond the archway is fitted as a show-room for optical and scientific apparatus. There also is the private office, the whole being so arranged as to command a view of the entire floor. The ceiling is covered with a neat



raised-pattern paper, and the pharmacy is entirely lighted by electric light. The work has been carried out by Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Thompson in their customary complete and finished style, and Mr. Newsholme is to be congratulated on

possessing the handsomest and best-appointed pharmacy in the neighbourhood.

We may add that Mr. Newsholme is a native of Settle, and was educated at the far-famed Giggleswick Grammar School. On leaving there he was apprenticed to Mr. R. Fell, chemist and druggist, Huddersfield, and thence he went as an assistant to the late Mr. Charles Jones, of Birkenhead. Afterwards he studied at the South London School of Pharmacy, became a pharmaceutical chemist in 1876, and in the following year purchased Mr. Radley's business. He has been on the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society since 1887, and also takes great interest in local affairs.

British Association Papers.

WE now conclude our series of abstracts of papers presented to several sections of the British Association at Ipswich.

DIASTASE IN LEAVES.

In a paper by Professor Reynolds Green, F.R.S., on "The Diurnal Variation in the Amount of Diastase in Foilage Leaves," the author stated that diastase is the first visible product of the assimilation of carbo-hydrates in plants, and the amount present in a plant varies according to the time of day, there being less in the evening than in the morning. Therefore it has been suggested that the diastase is used up in the transformation of the starch, but this theory is opposed to the view that enzymes do not diminish in quantity. Another suggestion is that sunlight may exert an influence on diastase. Professor Green has experimented both on solutions of diastase and on actual leaves. In the former case he found that 75 per cent. of the diastase was destroyed when exposed to the electric arc light or to sunlight, but the amount of destruction in the living leaf is not so great as in the solutions. Therefore he concluded that the proteids in the cell exert a strong protective influence. In the leaf diastase is in a continual state of formation and destruction, according to the kind, quality, and intensity of the light to which it is subjected.

A GOOD PIECE OF WORK

was reported on by the committee appointed to investigate qualitative analysis by means of electrolysis. The committee have compiled a bibliography of methods of analysis which have been suggested, in this way going over the whole of the following journals, viz.:—*Journal of the Chemical Society, Journal of the Society of Chemical Industry, Chemical News, American Chemical Journal, Journal of Analytical and Applied Chemistry, Journal of the American Chemical Society, Zeitschrift für analytische Chemie, Berichte der deutschen chemischen Gesellschaft, Zeitschrift für unorganische Chemie, Zeitschrift für physikalische Chemie, and Zeitschrift für Electrochemie*. The points which they have elucidated are arranged in the following sections:—(1) General conditions for electrolytic analysis; (2) special apparatus employed; (3) quantitative methods for the determination of metals by means of electrolysis; (4) quantitative methods for the separation of metals by means of electrolysis; (5) special applications of electrolysis in quantitative analysis; (6) applications of electrolysis to qualitative analysis.

WHAT IS MATTER?

The old question came up once more on Professor W. M. Hicks's presidential address to the Physical Section. He said that before a formal theory of a fluid ether had been attempted, Lord Kelvin had proposed his theory of vortex atoms, to which there are two objections—viz., the difficulty of accounting for the densities of various kinds of matter, and the fact that in a vortex ring the velocity of translation decreases as the energy increases. The professor thought that the solution of the problem is to be found in the spherical atom formed from the vortex ring of luminiferous ether. Tracing the life-history of a vortex ring, he said, we start with the energy large; the ring now has a very large aperture, and has a very thin filament. As the energy decreases the aperture becomes smaller, the filament thicker, and the velocity of translation greater. We can trace

quantitatively the whole of this part of its history until the thickness of the ring has increased to about four times the diameter of the aperture, or perhaps a little further. Then the mathematical treatment employed fails us or becomes very laborious to apply. Till eighteen months ago this was the only portion of its history we could trace. Then Professor M. J. M. Hill published his beautiful discovery of the existence of a spherical vortex. This consists of a spherical mass of fluid in vertical motion and moving bodily through the surrounding fluid, precisely as if it were a rigid sphere. This enables us to catch a momentary glimpse, as it were, of our vortex ring some little time after it has passed out of our ken. The aperture has gone on contracting, the ring thickening, and altering the shape of its cross section in a manner whose exact details have not yet been calculated. At last we just catch sight of it again as the aperture closes up. We find the ring has changed into a spherical ball, with still further diminished energy and increased velocity. We then lose sight of it again, but it now lengthens out, and towards the end of its course approximates to the form of a rod moving parallel to its length through the fluid with energy and velocity which can be approximately determined. From that brief extract we leave the student to judge how much nearer we are to a solution of the problem. What is matter? Professor Hicks's conception is beautiful and vivid, but how near it is to the truth no man can tell. The descent to

OYSTERS AND TYPHOID

is somewhat rapid, but necessary nevertheless. The subject was brought before the Zoology Section by Professor Herdman, who, as President of that Section, delivered an enthusiastic advocacy of deep-sea dredging. He and Professor Boyce presented a report on an experimental inquiry into the effect upon the oyster of various external conditions, including pathogenic organisms. In the course of this they stated that, in the case of the oysters grown in water infected with the *Bacillus typhosus*, it was found that there was no apparent increase of the organisms, but that they could be identified in cultures taken from the water of the pallial cavity and rectum fourteen days after infection. It is found that the typhoid bacillus will not flourish in clean sea-water, and the experiments seem to show that it decreases in numbers in its passage along the alimentary canal of the oyster. It would seem possible, therefore, that by methods similar to those employed in the "Bassins de dégorgement" of the French ostreiculturist, where the oysters are carefully subjected to a natural process of cleaning, oysters previously contaminated with sewage could be freed of pathogenic organisms or their products without spoiling the oyster for the market. It thus becomes possible to cleanse infected or suspected oysters by a simple mode of treatment which will render them innocuous.

Mr. W. A. Shaw read a paper in Section F on the currency question, embodying a proposal for a system of

INTERNATIONAL MONEY.

He observed that if the present situation of the currency question continues for a century it will sever the world into two completely independent and non-communicating circles—silver-using East and gold-using West. The one State to suffer by such a cleaving of the world asunder will be England, by losing her Eastern trade, while London will lose her position as the centre of the exchanges. These evils can only be averted by erecting an international system to form the basis of international commerce, which, therefore, must be bimetallic in nature. The main principles of the plan proposed are—that the new international money shall consist of bullion only; the bullion, or international money, shall be indifferently gold and (or) silver; and the only unit to be one of weight. The ratio of gold to silver must be fixed, but may be fixed for a long period or altered periodically as experience may decide. This is simply bimetallism in a new form, and there was much more of it in Section F on Friday.

PATIENT: "I suppose there are still a great many unsolved problems in medicine, doctor?" Doctor: "Yes; for instance, there is the question why sick people are called patients."

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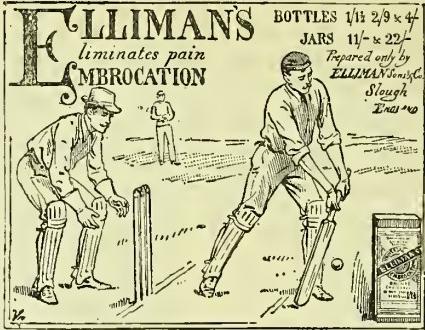
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SELLING LAUDANUM.

OPIUM well deserves the place it held for so many years at the head of the list of poisons used for suicide. That carbolic acid should have so completely distanced it in the race for popularity is an astounding proof of the value of the Pharmacy Act restrictions on the sale of poisons. If both

poisons were obtainable with equal facility—or, what amounts to the same thing, if the same restrictions applied to both—the suicides by carbolic acid would not number 2 per cent. of those by opium. Who would choose the cruel agony of a death by carbolic if he could be gradually soothed into dreamy unconsciousness and floated into oblivion by the gentle influence of the poppy-juice? And yet it seems from the Registrar-General's returns that in the last year of which the records have been published the suicides due to carbolic acid numbered 117, while those attributed to opium, morphia, laudanum, or any of the opium derivatives were only 63. The difference is due to the fact that carbolic can be obtained as readily as sugar, while laudanum must be obtained from the chemist's shop, with some chance of a question or two being put to the purchasers.

We all know that the law does not require the chemist to ask any questions or to make any difficulty about selling laudanum. Its use is so general for legitimate purposes that perhaps the public would hardly submit to much restriction on their purchases of the favourite tincture. And yet, considering the frequency with which laudanum is sold, the easy death which it offers, and the growing desire of so many people "to end the heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks that flesh is heir to," it is wonderful, and a striking testimony to the care with which chemists, as a rule, deal it out, that it is used in so comparatively few cases of suicide. Reports continually come before us showing the difficulty which would-be suicides have had in obtaining sufficient laudanum to ensure death. Many of them have to visit three or four shops, collecting a pennyworth at each, in order to obtain a decent draught. A system of considerable care is undoubtedly the rule among chemists whenever poisons are asked for. And this is the particular reason why the limitation of the sale of poisons to chemists becomes such a check on suicides.

There are, of course, numerous exceptions, and the exceptions necessarily but unfortunately get by far the greater share of publicity. Every week the newspapers contain one or more reports of inquests on persons whose deaths have been caused by laudanum or some opium derivative, taken either by mistake or intentionally, and in most of these cases the report makes it appear as if the poison had been obtained too easily. Coroners seldom omit to direct attention to this feature of the inquest which they have conducted. In many cases the allegation is well founded, but the general reader is likely to forget that for every case where the purchase has been accomplished without hindrance, there have been a hundred in which sales have been refused or effected only after a more or less stringent cross-examination. Only this week a Barnsley chemist sends us the report of an inquest on a man who appears to have been in a chronic state of drunkenness for some time past, and to have taken, and died from, a large dose of laudanum while in that condition. This man, our correspondent says, called at his shop while he was drunk, and asked to be supplied with laudanum. He was refused, as a matter of course, but he seems to have obtained the drug from some other place, for a little while afterwards he died from the effects of taking the same. The law does not say that laudanum shall not be supplied to drunken persons. But very few chemists indeed, we should think, would hesitate for an instant about refusing it to such persons.

Nor would many chemists, we should think, dream of supplying laudanum in ordinary circumstances to children. In this respect the Pharmacy Act prosecution in Glasgow for the sale of laudanum by the unqualified assistant in a doctor's shop, which we report this week, is instructive. The evidence showed that this assistant, with scarcely any hesita-

tion, had sold in one day an ounce of laudanum to a child ten years of age, and some more to a little boy six years old. The laudanum thus purchased was used by a woman for suicidal purposes. The employer of the defendant, a qualified medical man, gave evidence which went to show that he would sell laudanum to children with just as little precaution. The employer, unfortunately, is at liberty to so conduct his trade if he thinks fit. He is within his legal rights. But Sheriff Guthrie was not acting in the best interest of the public by manifesting impatience at the questions which brought out these facts.

ANTISEPTICS IN OINTMENTS.

A PAPER has recently been published by Dr. E. Breslauer under the rather lengthy title of "The Antiseptic Action of Ointments, with special reference to the Influence of Composition on Disinfectant Value." The subject, however, is an important one, for as Koch has demonstrated the fact that carbolic oil possesses no disinfectant properties, it is well that we should know how antiseptics behave in the form of ointments, a point concerning which there has been no definite information up to the present. Dr. Breslauer has undertaken to solve this problem by a series of very practical and extremely exact experiments. He describes the methods he has employed, amongst which Spirig's cover-glass method is the principal, and then gives the results of his experiments. He attaches less importance to testing the strength of the antiseptics themselves than to their behaviour when mixed with different ointment-bases. For his investigations he selected oil, vaseline, fat, lanoline, anhydrous lanoline, and cold-cream, and used *Staphylococcus pyogenes aureus* and *Bacillus prodigiosus*. It was demonstrated that when, for instance, carbolic acid was used, carbolised vaseline was superior to carbolic oil, carbolised fat to carbolised vaseline, carbolised anhydrous lanoline to carbolised fat, and that superior to all was carbolised lanoline and carbolised cold-cream. Similar results were obtained when corrosive sublimate, resorcin, silver nitrate, boric acid, and salicylic acid were substituted for carbolic acid: the combinations with lanoline and with cold-cream always proved the most active ointments. Moreover, several ointments much employed in medical practice were tested as to their bactericidal action, such as unguentum zuci, unguentum hydrargyri, and unguentum hydrargyri ammoniati. The two mercurial ointments exhibited a high degree of anti-septic action, the others none. It was also determined that other ointment-vehicles less extensively employed, such as ung. simplex, cypus, adeps latæ, epidermin, and ung. glycerini, are all inferior to lanoline and cold-cream in antiseptic power. The value of this investigation is increased by the additional experiments made by the author with the different ointment-constituents upon animals. These corroborated the conclusions already arrived at. Koch's experiments referred to above are little known in this country, and it may be useful, therefore, to put on record some entirely independent results obtained by Mr. William Duncan, Edinburgh, who communicated the notes to us as far back as 1891, and to which we made brief reference at that time. The observations referred to were commenced with the view of finding out why text-books state that carbolic oil is almost, if not quite, inert. Two reasons are assigned for this: either that the oil loses acid by evaporation, or that chemical interaction takes place between the acid and the oil. The first explanation is groundless, for a 10-per-cent. carbolic oil was found to have lost nothing at the end of six months. The second explanation is also incorrect, for solutions of the acid in almond oil of various ages were

found to have undergone no chemical change. The acid can be extracted from the oil in an unaltered condition, and in practically the same quantity as put in. The common explanations of inactivity having thus been disproved, experiments with bacteria were commenced, and these conclusively showed that when water was excluded germicidal action was almost *nil*. Before destruction of micro-organisms can take place contact is necessary, and this contact must be hindered, if not absolutely prevented, by the non-miscibility of oil with the discharges usually found in wounds. The same complaints have not been made about glycerinum acid. carbolic., which mixes readily with pus. Indeed, it seems strange that substances usually regarded as antidotes to this poison should ever have been used as vehicles for its administration. If its germicidal properties are to any extent the result of its power of coagulating albumen, then everything that interferes with this property by lowering or preventing it must of necessity render it more or less useless as an antiseptic agent. These results are strikingly corroborated by Dr. Breslauer, who finds that the most reliable ointment-bases are those containing water—viz., cold-cream and lanoline. We call attention to these matters because there are few departments in pharmacy which have been so much neglected as ointments. We still adhere tenaciously to tradition in these matters. Dr. Breslauer mentions zinc ointment as exhibiting no antiseptic action. If he had gone further he might have found that this ointment under certain conditions becomes the most dangerous possible application to open sores. There is no ointment so liable to become bad, and occasionally cases of gangrene are met with in hospitals which are traceable to the use of zinc ointment. What this is due to is not exactly known, but it only happens with rancid ointment, and it is highly probable that it is due to the presence of the *Staphylococcus pyogenes aureus*.

ORRIS.

IT is a matter of some surprise that, although one or more of the three varieties of blue flag (*Iris germanica*, L., *Iris pallida*, Lam., and *Iris florentina*, L.) which yield the orris-root of commerce are found in abundance in every country of Southern Europe, the commercial cultivation of the finest variety, by which the course of the market is generally regulated, should have remained restricted to a comparatively small area in Tuscany, of which Lucca, Prato and Pontassieve near Florence, and Arezzo, are the principal centres. Orris-root has always been subject to great price-fluctuations; but the quotations of the last four or five years, when Florentine root has ruled high out of proportion to the cost of production, ought to have been an inducement to landowners in other parts of Italy to embark upon the cultivation of so paying a crop. It is said, indeed, that after the rapid advance in price in 1889, and again in 1891, when the quotations reached the highest figure on record—115s. to 120s. per cwt. for best picked Florentine—many new plantations were laid down in Tuscany, as well as in Calabria, in Southern Italy; but up to the present the produce of these does not seem to have made its appearance on the markets, although orris yields a marketable crop in the third year of its growth. The comparative poverty of the majority of the cultivators and the smallness of the principal orris-growing district facilitate speculation in the drug, which, as a matter of fact, has been almost uninterruptedly under the control of a small party of venturesome operators for the last seven or eight years, and at this moment again forms an object of bitter contention between at least two sets of rival speculators, with the

result that since the Florentine root was harvested, and has been in process of drying, trimming, and bleaching, quotations have fluctuated almost daily.

For several years previous to 1889 the prices of all varieties of orris had been unusually low, and every autumn when the new crop appeared upon the market consumers were regaled to circumstantial stories of the unprofitableness of the culture and its certain abandonment in the near future. In spite of these complaints, orris-root continued to be forthcoming in sufficient quantities to meet all the requirements of a steadily increasing consumption; but in 1889 the crop really appears to have been a failure, and no sooner were the plants dug up (in Tuscany harvesting usually takes place in July and August) than prices commenced to assume an unexpected upward tendency. The Verona root, which is harvested about six weeks after that of Tuscany, and is much inferior in appearance and oil-content, also advanced in price, and neither variety has since been obtainable at the figures to which dealers had been accustomed for many years.

The next season—that of 1890—again brought a small crop, and then appeared upon the scene a small syndicate of speculators of various nationalities, which succeeded in obtaining control of by far the greater part of the Florentine crop—a comparatively easy matter in a year when the second-hand supplies in most European trade centres, as well as in America (which is a large customer for orris), had been suffered to fall very low. We cannot say whether the venture turned out a profitable one—one of the leading members of the band, who is a well-known personality on the London Royal Exchange, could probably give an interesting account of it if he choose to talk—but the syndicate held together for three seasons, and during that time orris-root was never suffered to decline to any considerable extent.

Nothing is more difficult than to give a precise estimate of the quantity of orris produced in Italy. The bulk of the so-called Florentine root is brought into commerce by way of Leghorn, while that grown in the Lessinian Alps, northwards of Verona, after having been bought up by dealers at Tregnago and Illasi and sorted, mostly finds its way to the great commercial emporium of Trieste. The cultivators' and wholesale dealers' estimates cannot, for obvious reasons, be trusted; but judges who are in a position to obtain the most accurate information possible give it as their opinion that the Florentine crop runs from 250 tons in a middling to 380 tons in a good season, while the Verona district produces from 200 to 300 tons a year. Reckoning 60s. per cwt. and 35s. per cwt. as fair average prices for Florentine and Veronese root respectively—and these figures are certainly not taken too low, although they are about 50 per cent. below the quotations now current—it will be seen that the total average value of an Italian crop would be about 28,000£., a sum not likely to scare the modern "syndicate" speculator. The sources of supply of orris-root outside Italy are not of any importance. It is true that, stimulated by the unusually elevated price of Italian root, the exports of orris from Morocco have increased since 1890 from 7 to about 55 tons a year, but this root is of very inferior quality and poor aroma; while the East Indian orris (presumably from *Iris nepalensis*, Wallich, cultivated in Kashmir), which is sometimes seen on our market, leaves still more to be desired, although at the last London drug-sales 35s. per cwt. was paid for a parcel of this variety. Parts of the Tyrol and the Austrian province of Dalmatia also probably produce a little orris, but at most, we should say, a few tons.

At the present time, when the harvest of Florentine orris is at an end, and that of Veronese root will shortly be gathered, consumers naturally ask what course prices are

likely to take. The reports from Italy are exceedingly conflicting, but they seem to indicate that Tuscany has produced a crop of barely average quantity and good quality, while at the same time the general opinion is that the high prices are likely to be at least maintained. Speculation apart, the maintenance of prices may possibly be due to the notoriously growing consumption of the drug, which has been in very great request for the last eighteen months, in spite of the fact that a synthetic substance similar to its odorous principle has meanwhile come into use in making the new violet-scents which have acquired such sudden popularity, and are likely to account for the consumption of at least as much orris this season as they did in 1894. It is not probable, indeed, that we shall return to the orris-prices of 1888 and *ante* unless the cultivation of the plant should be greatly extended—and of that, as we have said, there is no sign at present. On the other hand, it must be avowed that the prices are still dangerously high. The coming month may probably bring some definite change in the position of the drug, and consumers who can afford to hold off for a few weeks will do well, we should think, to play a waiting game.

AN ANALYTICAL TRIPLET.

THOSE who study chemical literature may have observed the marked change which is being effected on the best kinds of analytical text-books for students. Formerly there was scarcely anything available which did not deal solely with the identification and separation of the common bases and acids, and this in such a general way that those subtle properties upon which many separations depend were ignored, so that the student often returned utterly erroneous reports, after assuring himself that he had done everything to secure accuracy. The separation of chemistry, as a distinct branch of knowledge, as a calling deserving and requiring a curriculum of its own, did not at first have a favourable influence upon the text-books of the science, for new volumes upon the old lines, and with the old faults more or less concentrated, came in a continuous stream. There appears to be a slackening of the supply of books of that character, and the necessity for more thorough works has brought out several really excellent manuals which have become favourites. We have before us two of these, and a third volume of peculiar and excellent character. These we take as an object-lesson in the literature available for chemists, amongst whom we reckon those pursuing pharmacy as a calling.

Comparatively few analytical works are now addressed solely to pharmaceutical students. There are still some of us in the trade who may remember that such works were prepared for medical and pharmaceutical students first, the pure chemistry student being a secondary consideration. This characteristic is still reflected in Dr. John Muter's "Short Manual of Analytical Chemistry," of which the sixth edition appears this week. Originally this book was written for pharmaceutical students; but the succeeding editions were extended in scope, fresh subjects were brought in, until almost the whole range of the commercial analyst's work was accounted for. This, practically, is what the sixth edition presents to us; it is a book for the pharmaceutical student, the pharmacist in practice, and the analytical chemist. The qualitative analysis of inorganic substances is treated in all its details in the old familiar way, but with many modern touches of refinement and points of instruction; then Dr. Muter presents an almost equally satisfactory scheme for the qualitative analysis of alkaloids and other medicinal organic substances. This is the fullest scheme of analysis in this department which we know of, and if Dr. Muter

would but turn his attention to perfecting it by grouping the bases, he would confer an incalculable service upon pharmaceutical students. Beyond this point (excepting volumetric and gravimetric analyses) the book takes us into regions which were rarely explored by pharmacists thirty years ago, yet Dr. Muter succeeds, in the course of 60 pages, in conveying an immense amount of information serviceable to the student and the analyst. This is particularly noticeable in Chapter XI., devoted to "Special Processes for the Analysis of Drugs, Urine, and Urinary Calculi." There are many excellent processes in this chapter, the pages on essential oils being a clear synopsis of chemical methods of examination; but we would urge the desirability of fuller treatment of tinctures, and other alcoholic medicines, than the author provides. As a whole, the "Manual" exemplifies the wide range of work which the student must now traverse before he can consider himself an accomplished pharmacist.

The same fact, but with a general rather than pharmaceutical application, is prominent in the second book referred to. This is the third edition of Clowes and Coleman's "Quantitative Chemical Analysis" (published by Churchill), a work which is said to be "adapted for use in the laboratories of colleges and schools." This book, so far as ordinary quantitative analysis is concerned, proceeds on familiar lines; but the authors take great pains to explain many little manipulative details which too often are slurred over. Much of the instruction provided in these earlier chapters is really the basis of what is to follow, since the object is to familiarise the student with the methods common in all analyses. It all leads up to the fourth and fifth parts of the book, which embody the analytical processes used in several industries, and commonly by public analysts in their work under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act. We note, for example, the analysis of ores, water, milk, butter, beer, sugar, tanning-materials, soap-gases, &c., and although the subjects are not treated as fully as in the special books devoted to each of these matters, the treatment is adequate—sufficient, indeed, for any pharmacist. But, apart altogether from that consideration, it is somewhat remarkable that such a text-book is in use in laboratories and schools, for we must assume that those who use it become familiar with most of the subjects treated, and if this continues we may expect in the next generation a body of analysts and technical chemists who have had more liberal instruction during their student days than many public analysts of to-day could possibly have had. It is no less remarkable that a book of this character, embracing so many departments of analytical chemistry, can be produced at 8s. 6d.

The third volume of our triplet is in many respects the most remarkable. It is a translation, by Mr. James Locke, of Professor N. Menschutkin's "Analytical Chemistry," which has been published by Macmillan. The professor is one of the staff of the University of St. Petersburg, and his book has gone through three editions in German. We have had nothing exactly like it in English, except Fresenius's and Crookes' works, but Menschutkin's book differs from both of these in being remarkably readable; it is, in short, a departure from the usual style of analytical books, whose aim generally is conciseness in expressing facts. It is devoted to qualitative and quantitative analyses, and in the former all the known elements are included. There is also an utter absence of charts, but the usual group-system is adopted. Each base, for example, is taken, and its behaviour towards reagents is thoroughly discussed, all the physical and chemical conditions which modify reactions being noted. This is done so fully that one is almost forced to say that the book is not one for the ordinary student, but for his teacher; it is really, however, a book for the study

and the laboratory. Its thoroughness will commend it, and as an example of that we quote the following sentences :—

If tartaric acid be added in excess to a concentrated solution of sodium hydroxide or carbouate, and the solution, which becomes heated by the chemical reaction, allowed to cool, a precipitate of acid sodium tartrate will form. The compounds of sodium named possess an alkaline reaction, but the neutral salts, on the contrary, such as the chloride, give no precipitate with tartaric acid.

Here is a fact which one may wade through dozens of text-books without finding, yet it is of initial importance; and although the experienced analyst would not be misled by the reaction, it may frequently trouble the inexperienced. Professor Meuschutkiu's book is full of such notes as these. For those who are proceeding to the systematic study of chemistry, who have the time, therefore, to take the pains to eliminate error and to master every detail, we commend it; and especially do we urge that teachers should read it, for as a record of experience we have few like it in the English language. Its publication can only be regarded with satisfaction, for it indicates that the desire for greater thoroughness in analytical methods exists in schools.

"NATURE" ON THE B.P.

There is no special reason why *Nature* should refer to the British Pharmacopeia; were we flippant we might say that it is not natural that it should do so. Nevertheless, a column and a half about the revision of the work appeared in last week's number. There is little or nothing new in it, merely compliments upon what the General Medical Council has done in circularising, retaining specialists, and so on—all about four months after date. Someone behind the scenes seems to have been working the oracle :—"We understand," says our contemporary, in concluding, "that in the new revision centimetres and grammes will be made official in all the monographs of the text, side by side with the still legalised grains and ounces, minims and drachms. This change will bring the British handbook into line with the official dispensatories of all other civilised States, and should tend to hasten the time when the international system of metric weights and measures shall acquire full legal authority in this country. It thus appears that the Medical Council's Committee have undertaken the task of revision with an adequate sense of their responsibility. They have in the suggestions of the medical authorities at home and abroad, and in the useful digests of the literature of pharmacy, prepared from year to year by their reporter, Professor Attfield, ample materials whereon to base their deliberations. As a body of physicians representing the supreme council of the profession, they are eminently qualified to judge as to the requirements of practical medicine and clinical therapeutics. Where their domain borders on that of the specialist in chemistry, botany, pharmacy, or physiological pharmacology, they propose to have recourse to the most skilled representatives of these branches of science. The result of their labours, thus conceived and carried out, will be awaited with interest not only by practitioners of medicine and pharmacy, and by manufacturing chemists, but by all who have sympathy with the application of science to human needs." We cordially re-echo these hopes.

THE PROFESSOR AS POET.

"Dapper Dick," who writes for the *Westmoreland Gazette*, has discovered in the visitors' book at the Dauseon Ghyll new hotel, Langdale, some verses describing a rainbow below the horizon, as seen from the summit of Great Gable, on August 10. The writer is "J. A." Watford, Herts, a Fellow of the Royal Society, who doubtless describes accurately a natural phenomenon rarely observed. Here are

some of his verses. Others relate to the spray bows seen at waterfalls and at the heads of ships :—

Great Gahle's a mountain 'midst Cumberland Lakes,
From whose summit all Lakeland you see,
And there a most beautiful vision up-breaks
To the eyes of J., Maudie, and E.

They are tired with their climb, and the cairn is their seat,
When o'er Derwent's dark waters they see
A rainbow complete, nearly three thousand feet
Below J. and Maudie and E.

The Lake of the Derwent is fairly arched o'er
By this bridge, fit for angels to see;
A spectrum unbroken from shore unto shore,
Delighting J., Maudie, and E.

"Now many's the bow in the clouds we've seen grow,
And trust many more we shall see;
But never seen grow such a bow down below,"
Say the climbers J., Maudie, and E.

"From our deepest of depths, from our darkest of nights,
Let us hope that some rays there may be
Rising charming and cheering as now rise these lights,"
Chant the trio J., Maudie, and E.

This is a side to the genial professor's accomplishments which pharmacists have not often had occasion to appreciate. There is, of course, only one "J. A." of Watford—to wit, John Attfield.

CUTTERS AND CATTLE.

A North London drug-store issues a price-list which contains the following quotations :—

Liquorice-powder, best, 1d. per oz.; 10d. per lb.
Liquorice-powder, for cattle, 4 oz. for 2d.; 6d. per lb.

These quotations are understood to refer to compound liquorice-powder. One's first thought is that cattle must be becoming very nice in their tastes when they are catered for by the medicine-man with such dainties; but the local circumstances suggest that a second cutter's lower price for the article has suggested to the first cutter advertising powder at the same price "for cattle."

IS QUININE CRYSTALLISED MALARIA?

The *Indian Engineer* states that "it has been discovered that the famous tree, from the bark of which quinine is obtained, furnishes no quinine except in malarial regions. It is, therefore, claimed that quinine is a malarial poison, drawn from the soil, and stored up by this wonderful tree. Wonderful discovery, say we! Pity the name of the discoverer is not mentioned; such modesty is misplaced. Henceforth quinine may be produced in Lower Bengal, where the soil is saturated with malaria." This is very fine, and apparently a modern version of the old story about how Jesuit's bark was discovered. Unfortunately for the theory, cinchona grows at high altitudes, where malaria is practically unknown. As far as we can recollect, the late Mr. J. Elliott Howard analysed cinchona grown in this country, and did not find it differ materially from the same cinchona imported.

POISONS AND PATENTS IN INDIA.

Dr. Patrick Hehir, of Hyderabad, writes in the *Indian Medical Record* regarding the sale of poisons and patent medicines in India, advocating the application of such regulations as are provided by the English Pharmacy Act, and placing the whole thing under the supervision of Registrars and the Police Department. At the same time, he suggests that the sale of patent medicines should be restricted. Dr. Hehir says that when he went out to India first he was most alarmingly struck with the amount of patent medicines consumed by his *clientèle*; but by consistently disconcerting their employment he has succeeded in reducing his patients to "Cockle's pills," "chlorodyne," and "Jayne's expectorant." The habit is still very widespread, and some medical practitioners are largely responsible for fostering the

sales of such remedies, but the worst at that are the lower class of pharmaceutists or chemists and druggists. He thinks that if there were a general concensus and determination on the part of the faculty to disown all chemists who trade in nostrums and traffic in illegal or counter-practice, a great deal of good would result.

THE WATER OF THE RIVER THAMES.

A very exhaustive report by Mr. W. J. Dibdin, chemist to the London County Council, to the Main Drainage Committee, has been published in pamphlet form. The work has necessitated the analyses of 6,400 samples of water taken at various points on the river between Teddington and the Nore at various states of the tide. The percentage aeration of the water forms one of the chief factors of the question, and it is found that this falls off steadily from the upper reaches of the river below Teddington, where it averages 80 per cent. of the possible aeration, until North Woolwich is reached, where it is only 23 per cent. It then rises again, until between Gravesend and Southend it reaches 75 per cent. Experiments (covering 150 different analyses) have also been made on the rate of aeration of water, and it is definitely proved that this falls off as the percentage of aeration increases. A series of calculations, involving the flow of water over Teddington Weir, the increase of the river-volume at different tides, and the percentage of sea-water present, coupled with the percentage aeration, have shown some remarkable results, which it is impossible to follow without reading the original report. It is also stated that the river, between the points named absorbs over 4,000 tons of oxygen from the atmosphere daily. The report is well worth perusal, and is sold at 3s. by Stanford's, of Cockspur Street, S.W.

SMOKING-OPIUM.

Professor Henri Moissan does not confine his attention to the electric furnace and the rare metals, and the fact that he is a pharmaceutical professor is kept well in mind by notes we occasionally receive from our Paris correspondent. In a recent one he mentioned that Moissan had been examining some samples of smoking opium. The particulars of the research as reported in the *Journ. Phar. Chem.* are interesting. No. 1 was a sample of Patna chandoo; No. 2 was chandoo of Shanghai make; and No. 3 was from Saigon. The most interesting figures are those subjoined:—

	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.
Water	27.2	22.71	32.12
Morphine	8.97	6.20	7.30
Glucose	nil	22.50	1.20
Sulphur	0.61	1.17	—
Acidity	1.73	4.10	4.87
Ash	0.24	10.37	4.12

The acidity is reckoned as sulphuric acid. It will be understood that the opium referred to is that made ready for smoking, and the presence of glucose in the less-esteemed varieties explains in a measure the objection to their use.

SODA v. SELTERS.

The Berlin daily papers have been exercising themselves about the practice obtaining among pharmacists, caterers and retailers generally to regard "selters" and "soda" water as convertible terms, and to supply the same article whether one or the other be asked for. An indignant citizen complains in one of the journals that upon calling a pharmacist's attention to the fact that he had given soda-water, though the customer had ordered selters, the apotheker declared that the two were identical. Another correspondent points out that in all "trinkhallen," or public-houses, there are found two taps, one labelled "selters," the other "soda," but that soda-water is invariably drawn from both. He has asked the barmaids for an explanation more than

once; but the saucy "sodaliques" (they are good at punning in Berlin) only smile and wink the other eye. Now, what is the difference between soda and selters, and how have they become mixed? The *Apotheker Zeitung* itself doesn't know, and puts the conundrum to its readers. According to German text-books, "sodawasser" contains in so many litres 10 parts of carbonate of soda and 1 part of common salt, whereas "selterswasser," for drinking-purposes, contains 2 parts of carbonate of soda, 1 of common salt, and $\frac{1}{2}$ of Glauber's salt.

THE HALF-PRICE CLOSED-LETTER COMPANY.

Mr. W. T. Olive, chemist, of Briton Ferry, has gone to the trouble of communicating with a number of his fellow-bondholders in the above-named company, with a view of ascertaining whether any effective steps can be taken to recover the money invested in the adventure, or any part of it. Mr. Olive sends us a batch of the letters he has received, and from these we find that the most frequent suggestion is that the advice of the editor of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST and of the solicitor attached to his staff should be sought. As the matter may interest others besides those who have written to us, we may as well append here our reply to Mr. Olive and his friends, which is as follows:—

We have read through the letters concerning the Half-price Closed-letter Company which were sent with yours of September 2. We do not clearly understand what you and your correspondents wish us to do. You ask simply for our opinion on the prospects of recovering investments in the company, and that of our solicitor as to the best method of proceeding. We are sorry to have to give it as our opinion that the money is irretrievably lost, and we think it right to state here that when we investigated this matter some three years ago, we did not discover any evidence of fraud or culpable negligence on the part of the conductors of the company. It appeared to us that they had anticipated more active co-operation from their bondholders than they obtained, and that deficiency in this respect was the main cause of the failure of the scheme. At the time we refer to, we collected with much trouble papers, prospectuses, and information concerning the company. We submitted all these to our solicitor, and published his opinion in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of July 2, 1892. The specific question then considered was whether the company could recover from bondholders unpaid calls; but it was incidentally stated at the same time that the simple method of testing the value of the debentures would be to sue the company on one or more of the unpaid coupons. We offered to put bondholders into communication if they would write to us, but we had scarcely any response at the time, and we cannot see our way to take further steps now.

We note from the letter you send us from Somerset House that the company had made the statutory return to the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies down to April, 1894. We may state, however, that we have before us a letter addressed to the company at 85 Acton Vale, W., which has been returned to the writer through the post marked "Gone away."

We may add to this the following information supplied by our reporter. The company, he says, was registered on November 29, 1888, with a capital of 10,000*l.*, in 10*l.* shares. The capital was raised in February, 1891, to 12,000*l.*, in 10*l.* shares, by the creation of 200 new ordinary shares of 10*l.* each, beyond the 1,000 shares which were called founders' shares. Alfred Baaba & Co. are named as the managers. The last return was made up to April 18, 1893, and was filed on July 20, 1894, 1,000 founders' and 63 ordinary shares being taken up, of which 950 founders' shares had been issued as fully paid. The full amount called on 50 founders' and 63 ordinary was 1,123*l.* 10*s.* paid, 6*l.* 10*s.* unpaid. There were 40 shareholders, of whom 17 are chemists who hold 38 shares between them. The patentee was described as Henry Court, of 37 Alfred Road, Acton, and he held 718 founders' shares. No return for 1894 or 1895 has been filed.

Quatrains by "Minor" Poets.

WE now conclude our selection from the postcards sent to us during the rhyming-month of May, and append the awards. The competition was a good one, and doubtless many of the rhymes have amused the trade:—

CURES FOR CORNS.

Have you large corns upon your toes,
So that with pain you sweat, Sir?
Then take a saw, and saw off those
On which your corns are set, Sir.

H. ELEY.

A pharmacist's wife in the City,
Anointed her corns with ung. lyttae;
The stuff raised a blister, which didn't assist her:
The doctor prescribed spermacte. W. A. GRACE.

THOSE BOYS!

A chemist way down O-hi-o,
Made some pulvis amygdale co.,
The errand-boy quaking, gave it a good shaking,
The bottle's not uow in the row.

A. N. MITCHELL.

An old pharmacist dozing at ease,
With the C. & D. spread on his knees.
The boy smashed in his joy, an ammonia carboy,
Which made this old gentleman sneez.

H. MORTON DUNLOP.

The capsule was lovely without,
And the contents seemed tempting within,
So the curious boy his teeth did employ—
Then the language he used was a sin.

J. McM.

DISASTERS.

There was a young scientist brave,
Who humanity essayed to save.
He smilingly quaffed his mysterious draught,
And the roses now bloom on his grave.

W. F. C.

There was a young "Balliol" master,
"Horā somni" sat down on a plaster;
Twas mustard, you bet. He said with regret,
"I wish I'd got up from it faster."

ANNIE HIDE.

A surgeon who lived at Montrose,
Got caustic all over his nose;
He tried linseed meal his misfortunes to heal,
But he couldn't get any repose.

W. A. G.

There was a young chemist of Catfield,
Sold his shop up and settled in Hatfield.
A reaction set in, and he lost all his "tin,"
And to find it he's looking up "Attfield."

M. TYLER.

FAIR WOMEN AND BRAVE MEN.

From a pharmacy-school in the North,
The principal's daughter went forth,
Her name it was Mona—a swell Bella-donna—
She a 'bus took to Bond Street for "Worth."

W. E. T.

A conceited young chemist, and rash,
Put cantharides on his moustache,
Met his sweetheart and kissed here, creating a blister
Neath the nose of his nice little mash.

T. A.

There was a young chemist named "Willa,"
For a walk he went down "Piccadille,"
A lady he met—got married—and yet
He thinks very oft he was "Scille."

G. USHER.

TALL TALC.

A chemist who went to a ball,
Found his nice lemon gloves a bit small;
A wicked young chum introduced powdered gum,
And he struggled all night in the hall.

W. A. GRACE.

THE ADVANTAGE OF BEING A BOTANIST.

A botanical druggist of Bute
Had a "horticul-toorai" repute,
Aud the old ladies swore by his pharmacy-store
As he grew all his own rhubarb-root.

T. A.

FROM BRITISH GUIANA.

In the shop where I now am at work
Comes a man in the shape of a Turk
For a 4-oz. vial of castor oil
And swallows it off with a smirk.

FERRUM.

THE LAST.

There was an old druggist at Trim,
Much attenuated and grim:
It was said such a sage would expire of old age—
And that's just what happened to him.

NORFOLK.

The excellence of the competition and the variety of verse have been our adjudicator's difficulty. But, strictly adhering to the sample given in May, the following verses are selected as most fitting for recognition:—

First prize (17. 1s.) to Mrs. HAROLD S. DUNN, Kelfield Lodge, York, for the following verse:—

To a pharmacy trotted one day
Two ladies with plenty to say;
They talked of their ill, asked the prices of pills,
Theu went to the stores straight away.

An admirable expression of the every-day worry of the chemist.

Second prize (10s. 6d.) to Mr. W. H. GRACE, 41 Prescot Street, Liverpool, for his verse:—

A chemist at Haverstock Hill
Was making some phosphorus pill :
He used a hot mortar, but omitted the water,
And died without making a will.

This is one of many good verses which Mr. Grace has contributed.

Two prizes of 5s. each for the following:—

By Miss ROSE, 3 Sussex Place, W.

The Latin for Leif it is Folia,
The ditto for Oils it is Olea ;
And young Latin scholars who wear Eton collars
Say the Latin for Soap is "Vinolia."

By Mr. A. FELTHOUSE, 11 Edbrooke Road, Paddington.

There was a smart chemist named Spicer
Stocked "Buchan's Perfumed Fly-Enticer";
He sold all the lot, another stock got,
And telegraphed Buchan—"Nun Nicer."

The prize-winners will please claim their awards.

New Books.

Gall, J., and Robertson, D. *Popular Readings in Science*. Second edition. Cr. 8vo. Pp. 468. 4s. "Constable's Oriental Miscellany." (Constable.)

Hyslop, Theo. B., M.D. *Mental Physiology, especially in its Relation to Mental Disorders*. Illustrated. 8vo. 18s. (Churchill.)

Martin, S., *Functional and Organic Diseases of the Stomach*. 57 illustrations. Royal 8vo. Pp. 524. 16s. (Pentland.)

Muter, John. *A Short Manual of Analytical Chemistry, Qualitative and Quantitative—Inorganic and Organic*. Sixth edition. Illustrated. Large 8vo. Cloth cover. Pp. xii and 213. (Baillière & Co.)

Proceedings of the American Pharmaceutical Association at the 42nd annual meeting, held at Asheville, N.C., September, 1894. 8vo. Pp. 424 and 139. With illustrations. \$6.50. Baltimore, 1894. (Published by the Association.)

Snell, Simeon. *Eyesight and School Life*. Post 8vo. Cloth cover. Pp. viii and 70, with illustrations. 2s. 6d. (John Wright & Co., Bristol.)

Stirling, W. *Outlines of Practical Physiology: a Manual for the Physiological Laboratory, including Chemical and Experimental Physiology, with reference to Practical Medicine*. Third edition, revised and enlarged. With 289 illustrations. Crown 8vo. Pp. 418. 12s. 6d. (Griffin.)

Supplement to the Year-book of the Imperial Institute of the United Kingdom, the Colonies, and India. Post 8vo. Paper cover. Pp. 84 and two maps. (Imperial Institute.)

Medical Gleanings.

CANTHARIDIN SOLUTION.

PROFESSOR LIEBREICH recommends for internal use a solution of 1 gr. of cantharidin in 10 oz. of tincture of orange, solution being accelerated by heating. The dose is 2 to 15 minims.

SCIATICA AND RHEUMATISM.

DR. DOMANSKI recommends the following prescription for sciatica and rheumatism :—

Phenacetin	gr. xxxvj.
Salol	gr. xxxvij.
Caffeine	gr. iv.

M.

To be divided into ten powders.

—*Medical Press.*

CHRY SAROBIN PENCILS.

Parts.

Resin	5
Yellow wax	35
Olive oil	30
Chrysarobin	30

Melt together the oil, wax, and resin; when the mixture cools, add the chrysarobin gradually, and stir it well to form a uniform mixture. Pour into suitable moulds.

—*Medical Press.*

DYSMENORRHOEA MIXTURE.

Antipyrin	5iiss.
Potassii bromidi	3iiss.
Ext. vibur. prun. liq.	5v.
Spt. viui gallici	3j.
Syr. aurantii	3j.
Aq.	3iv.

M.

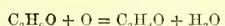
Dose : A dessertspoonful thrice daily.

FINISH-DRINKERS.

HERE is a moral lesson for finish-drinkers reported in a German paper. It is the case of a man, aged 44, who died of a rapid tuberculosis of the lungs and diaphragm. Besides this the necropsy revealed a deep chronic ulcer of the stomach, situated close to the pylorus, and causing adhesion of this part of the stomach to the liver. By the ulcer was found a calculus of flattened cylindrical form, measuring 10 cm. in length, 5 cm. in width, and 4 cm. in thickness, and weighing 75 g. It was shellac. The man had been in the habit of drinking shellac-polish

EXTEMPORANEOUS FORMALDEHYDE FOR DISINFECTION.

THE *Lancet* mentions that it has recently been proposed to prepare formaldehyde by a somewhat novel method, which may be conveniently available for disinfecting rooms, &c. It is well known that the partial combustion of ordinary alcohol may be effected by means of a previously-heated platinum-wire. Thus, if a spiral of platinum-wire be wound around the wick of an ordinary spirit-lamp so that the spiral projects $\frac{1}{2}$ inch or so above the top of the wick, combustion continues to go on after the flame has been blown out, the wire remaining incandescent, while the spirit undergoes a change from alcohol into aldehyde, thus :—



It is only necessary to substitute wood spirit for ordinary spirit of wine when, instead of acetic aldehyde, formic aldehyde is obtained. Lamps have been especially constructed with platinum screens for this purpose, and it is suggested that they would afford a convenient means of giving-off the vapours of formaldehyde for disinfecting hospital-wards, infected dwellings, &c. The *Lancet* is not sure that the method is economical, as from the very nature of the process—namely, that of imperfect combustion—the yield of formaldehyde is sure to fall short of theoretical requirements, and there will also be considerable loss of spirit.

NITRATE OF SILVER IN EPILEPSY.

DR. WILLIAM MURRAY, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, communicates an interesting note to the *Lancet* on the treatment of epilepsy by means of nitrate of silver. He is a thorough believer in it, and when he gets a patient who is heroic enough to risk the livid skin he has no difficulty in eradicating the epileptic tendency. His opinion of the action of the remedy is that a deposit of silver in some form—probably chloride—in the molecules or submolecules of the nerve cell and fibres so alters the polarity—i.e., the explosive tendency—of the molecules as to arrest the epileptic discharge. This is corroborated by Dr. Gowers, who points out that the susceptibility to nervous and muscular action needs but the influence of a stimulus—i.e., of “added motion”—to bring about a manifestation of the latent energy in these tissues, and that an increase of susceptibility or of stimulus—i.e., added motion—may evoke an epileptic explosion. It is, therefore, a fair inference to suppose that a deposit of chemical atoms in the neighbourhood, as it were, may by creating a kind of foreign activity prevent explosive union. He mentions one striking case—that of a gentleman whom, twenty years ago, he put on the silver treatment for nine months. He had no fit after the first month of the course, and he has never had one since. His health has been much better, no small ailments, and he bears the doctor no grudge for his silver skin.

CHILDREN'S MEDICINES.

AT the meeting of the British Medical Association, Mr. Kingston Barton, M.R.C.P., read a paper on this subject, which has just been published. The following brief abstract of it will be useful :—

Ammon. Acet. Liquor.—Five minims each year up to 12 years, every hour, for six doses, then every two or three hours.

Ammon. Carb.—For a child of 1 year give $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., and for 12 years gr. ij.

Ammon. Brom.—Big doses are borne by children. For 1 year gr. v. every four hours.

Anethi Aq.—5ss. diluted before breast-feeding or with the bottle of milk.

Belie Confectio.—Excepting the fresh-made confection, the usual preparation is unreliable; for chronic intestinal catarrh it is very valuable, 5ss. to 3j. being sufficient for adults.

Boracis Glycerin.—For aphthous affections of the mouth allow 10 to 60 drops to be sucked every hour or two. “Most valuable.” May also be given in 3j. doses six or eight times in twenty-four hours to children of 10, “as it produces no bad signs internally.”

Bism. Carb.—Most valuable in diarrhoea. For an infus of 6 months give gr. v. every four hours.

Calomel.—For thick-coated or furred tongue nothing can equal calomel. For children under 1 year, gr. j. : 2 years, gr. ij.; under 7, gr. iii.; followed in four hours by a dose of mag. cit. eff.

Iyld. c. Cret.—In gastric and intestinal irritation this remedy is most valuable. Small doses repeated at intervals till the stools are altered is perhaps the most effective way of giving this drug. For children under 2 years $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. every four hours until 1 gr. has been taken.

Ipecacuanha Vinum.—Dose for infants under 1 year, 1 to 3 minims; 1 to 12 years, 2 to 10 minims, or $\frac{1}{2}$ minim a year. For emesis $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ minim for children under 1 year, followed by frequent teaspoonsfuls of warm water, and then tickling the throat, gives the best results.

Ipecacuanha et Morphinae Tinct.—Extremely useful in spasmodic irritable cough. For a child from 2 to 12 years old with irritable cough, worse at night and keeping the child awake, one-eighth to a quarter of a lozenge each fifteen minutes will, after two or three doses, give much relief.

Opium.—In tuberculous peritonitis a child of 8 will bear $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. of morphine each three or four hours.

Opiu Ext. Liq. is the best preparation of the drug for administration. Combined with bismuth it is the most reliable means of controlling violent diarrhoea in children. The old dictum, 1 drop for each year, is a very fair division, and $\frac{1}{2}$ for each month under 1 year.

Potassii Chloras.—In all throat and mouth affectious this drug, with potassi citras, given each hour for numerous doses, gives quick relief. A child of 1 year can take 1 gr. per hour for twelve hours, and then every two or three hours.

Sennae Confectio.—The most certain of laxatives for continued constipation, only it must be given regularly. Dose to be gauged by test; 3j. to 5j. suits for 1 year to 5 years.

Sinna Syrupus is extremely uncertain.

Sodii Phosphas is practically useless.

Sulphuris Confectio is most unreliable. *Sulphur Precipitatum vel Sublimatum* is best. A child of 1 year requires gr. v.; 6 months, gr. iiij.; 12 years, 5ss. Most useful in all skin-affecteds of childhood.

American Dispensers' Notes and Formulae.

BY A NEW YORK PHARMACIST.

Mist. vel Tr. Chamomile Comp.

Tinct. cinchon. co.	..	..	..	..	..	5iv.
" calumb.	..	..	..	..	..	5j.
" card. simpl.	..	..	..	..	..	5j.
" chamomil.	..	..	..	..	..	5j.
" gent. simpl.	..	..	..	..	..	5j.
" bryoniae	..	..	..	..	..	5iv.
" uucis vom.	..	..	..	..	..	5iv.
" ignatiae	..	..	..	..	..	5iv.
" phosphor.	..	..	..	..	..	5iv.

Largely prescribed, with or without other ingredients, as a tonic.

Ophthalmic Spirit.

Spt. lavand. simpl.	..	..	..	..	..	30
" rosmar.	..	..	..	..	..	120
" vini gallici	..	..	..	..	..	30
" camph.	..	..	..	..	..	4

Directions by Dr. Mittendorf and others:—"Apply to eyes externally six or eight times daily."

Freligh's Pil. Lep., Pip., et Pod.

Leptandrin.	..	..	..	..	..	gr. x.
Piperin.	..	..	..	..	..	gr. x.
Podophyllin.	..	..	..	..	..	gr. x.
Ext. hyos.	..	..	..	..	..	gr. x.
Ft. pil. xxx. Invol. fol. arg.						

Freligh's Pil. Cannab. Ind. et Codeinae.

Codeine	..	..	..	..	..	gr. xl.
Morph. sulph.	..	..	..	..	..	gr. x.
Ext. cannab. (Herring's)	..	..	..	..	..	gr. xxv.
Pulv. althææ	..	..	..	..	..	gr. xxv.

Ft. pil. 200. Fol. argent. invol.

Pick-me-up.

Tr. geut. co.	..	..	..	..	..	9 oz.
" zingib. fort.	..	..	..	..	..	½ "
" capsic.	..	..	..	..	..	½ dr.
Syrupi ..	..	..	..	..	..	6 oz.

Half-ounce in wineglass carbonic water.

Syr. Tolu.

Tr. tolu and sugar, of each, 2 oz.; mag. carb., 2 dr.; rubbed together. Add 16 oz. water; filter on 24 oz. Troy of sugar; heat to dissolve.

Cure for Seasickness.

This remedy is put up now by three of the leading stores as their own, and has an increasing sale. The formula is much sought after by others, and is known to some as the *Evening Post* cure, because it appeared in that newspaper; but the editor states he only published it for some of his readers:—

Label three small homeopathic vials Nos. 1, 2, and 3, and take one tube each of Dr. Burggraaves' dosimétriques granules—

Hysocyanine,	½ de milligramme
Sulfate de strychnine,	au ½ milligramme
Citrate de caffeine,	à uu milligramme.
Empty hysocyanine granules into No. 1	
" strychnine "	" No. 2
" caffeine cit.	" No. 3.

Place the three vials into a sliding powder-box, and label.

Directions.—Take one granule of each No. 1 and No. 2 in a little water when ship is leaving dock; then every fifteen minutes until four have been taken of each Nos. 1 and 2. Then let two hours elapse, after which, if necessary, repeat the four doses at fifteen minutes' interval. If there is dizziness or headache, take six granules of No. 3 at half-hour intervals. Price 5/-.

The following three formulas used in nasal affections are known to a few Fifth Avenue and Broadway apothecaries, of whom they can be had in bulk. They sell at 30c. for 1 oz.

Sol. Picis (Dr. Haughton's).

Spt. camph.	..	..	..	..	..	30
Tinct. picis	..	..	..	..	..	60
Alcohol,	..	..	..	..	..	60
Tinct. iodi..	..	..	..	..	..	4
M. Filter.						

Sol. Picis et Glycerinum (Haughton's).

Camphora	..	..	..	..	..	535
Alcohol.	..	..	..	..	..	120
Ol. picis	..	..	..	..	..	15
Iodi (solve c. K. I.)	..	..	..	..	..	0.3479
Glycerini q.s. ad	..	..	..	..	..	295.73

M. et filter.

Sol. Picis et Paraffin. (Haughton's).

Camph. gum.	..	..	..	..	..	555
Iodi	..	..	..	..	..	0.3479
Ol. picis	..	..	..	..	..	15
Liq. paraffin. ad	..	..	..	..	..	235.73

Let stand a few days, shake occasionally, and filter.

Liq. Ammon. Anisat.

Ol. anisi	..	..	..	..	..	3iss.
Alcohol.	..	..	..	..	..	3ivs.
Aq. ammon.	..	..	..	..	..	5viiss.

Filtered.

Tinct. Picis.

Ol. picis	..	..	..	..	..	5j.
Alcohol. ad	..	..	..	..	..	5j.

Mutter Plaster.

Ol. olivæ	..	..	..	..	..	16
Plumbi ox. rub. pulv. subtil.	..	..	..	..	..	8

Boil in copper vessel or enamelled pan, throwing in some copper wire until brown; then add 4 oz. yellow wax.

Wills of Deceased Chemists.

Mr. Thomas Evans, of 24 Manchester Road, Burnley, chemist and druggist, having died on March 9, 1895, intestate, letters of administration to his estate have been granted to his widow, Mrs. Mary Jane Evans, by whom the gross value of the deceased's personality is sworn at 256L 5s.

The will of Mr. Charles Read, chemist and druggist, of Netherfield Road, North Kirkdale, Liverpool, who died on March 26, 1895, has been proved by Mrs. K. A. Read, the widow and sole executrix. The value of the testator's personality amounts to 380L 12s. There are no leaseholds.

Letters of administration to the personal estate of the late Mr. Robert Smyth, chemist and druggist, of Pontypridd, who died intestate on March 12 last, have been granted to Mrs. Ann Smyth, of 8 Llandaff Road, Cardiff, the widow, by whom the value of deceased's personality is sworn at 350L.

The will of Mr. John Holliday Powley, of Masham, Yorkshire, chemist and druggist, formerly of Brighouse, who died on March 6, 1894, has been proved in London by Mrs. Isabel Powley, the widow, and Mr. Harry Cooper, of York, the executors named therein, by whom the gross value of the testator's personality is sworn at 1,195L 6s. 5d.

The will of Mr. James Thomas Clarke, pharmaceutical chemist, of 164 Mount Sorral, Bury New Road, Higher Broughton, formerly of Ashley Villa, Ashley Road, Altringham, who died on April 8, 1895, has been proved by Mrs. Sarah Clarke, the widow, and Mr. John Moss, of Market Place, Ripley, the executors therein named, by whom the gross value of the testator's personality is sworn at 884L 19s. 11d., and the net at 305L 8s.

The late Mr. Emanuel Polack, of 148 Abbey Road, St. John's Wood, chemist and druggist and commercial traveller, having died on October 1, 1894, at Johannesburg, in the South African Republic, intestate and a bachelor, and his father, the Rev. Lazarus Polack, retired Jewish minister, having renounced, letters of administration to the deceased's estate have been granted to his brother, Mr. James Polack, by whom the value of the personality is sworn at 344L 2s. 2d.

The late Mr. Kirby.

A FUNERAL service preparatory to the burial of the late Mr. W. H. Kirby was held at noon last Saturday in St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, E.C., under the shadow of which the deceased gentleman had worked for so many years. There was an appropriateness in this which even those who genuinely grieved for the loss of an honest and good man could not help feeling, for the sounds of City life outside the church brought the circumstance into mind. A special train conveyed the Dartford employés to Holborn Viaduct Station, and the whole of the women in that and the City establishments occupied the northern section of the church. Masonic brethren, to the number of about two hundred, occupied the right centre pews and in the left centre were most of Mr. Kirby's late colleagues and many personal and pharmaceutical friends. The coffin, buried in a mass of white flowers, stood before the altar. The service, as the Church of England service for the burial of the dead always is, was of a most impressive character; and when the Rev. T. W. Gibson had in his short sermon paid a simple tribute of respect to Mr. Kirby as a friend, a man, and a worker, and when the first strains of the last hymn were sounded, one of the most ancient of all tributes to the dead was paid by the Masonic brethren. One by one they proceeded to the altar, and placed upon the flower-covered bier a sprig of acacia-blossom, until the heap of white flowers looked as if a shower of gold had fallen upon it. To most of those present the last scene was the removal of the remains to the hearse outside. Mrs. Kirby, supported by Mr. Wellcome, headed the mournful procession which followed. The silent grief of the widowed woman was pitiful to witness. From the church the remains were conveyed to Paddington Station, and thence to High Wycombe. On reaching the station there a number of local friends had gathered, and the open funeral-car which was to bear the coffin to the cemetery being already piled with wreaths, those which had come from London had to be placed in a separate conveyance. The funeral cortège wended its way to the cemetery through a large concourse of sympathising spectators. The service at the grave was conducted by the Rev. G. P. Jarvis. We are indebted to Mr. Henry S. Wellcome for some notes of his late assistant-manager's career. Mr. Kirby was born at High Wycombe on August 27, 1858, and was educated at the Grammar School there. He was initiated into business methods in a merchant's office, and two years later entered the employment of an architect, where his artistic tastes received impetus, and enabled him in later years to become an amateur photographer of exceptional skill. Coming to London shortly after he had emerged from his teens, Mr. Kirby obtained a position as junior clerk with Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. at the beginning of their career, and as their business grew he was found to possess those rare characteristics which enable a man to cope with rapidly multiplying volumes of business and new ventures. He was particularly strong in the grasp of detail, and backed that by unswerving belief in his employers and honesty of purpose. So it happened that he became the firm's chief accountant and assistant-manager: the position was natural to him, in short. Mr. Kirby was married in 1888 to Miss Ellen Howard, by whom he had two children—a girl of 6 and a boy of 3. Socially, Mr. Kirby was a lovable man. He was an ardent naturalist and an excellent musician. In all social matters connected with the firm he took a leading part, and Freemasons also discovered his gifts in that direction; yet it must be said that the man never boasted himself, for he lacked that element of "londness" which so often characterises "jolly fellows." Last Saturday's tribute was most eloquent of the respect that was widely felt for him, and it was thoughtful of Mr. Wellcome to arrange the service.

The inquest in regard to Mr. Kirby's death was held on Friday, September 20, when the domestic servant was the principal witness. She admitted that she had turned the gas off at the meter imperfectly. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

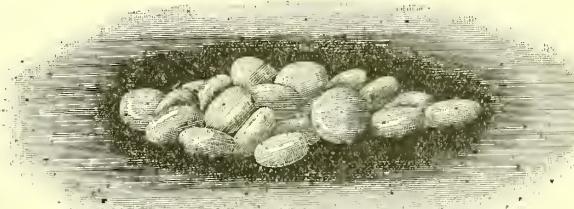
Trade Notes.

"CARTER'S A B C" is the title of a new pamphlet which has been produced by the proprietors of Carter's Little Liver Pills for distribution by chemists. It is attractive in appearance, contains clever rhymes and sketches, and will certainly be popular with the public. Chemists can get a sample copy by sending a postcard to the Carter Medicine Company, 46 Holborn Viaduct.

A BABY-BOX.—Messrs. H. Gilbertson & Sons, 11 St. Andrew Street, E.C., have introduced a very useful box of antiseptic dressings, &c., for use in confinements, and which they have named "Gilbertson's Baby-box." It contains antiseptic pads, soap, crystals (pot. permang.), ointment, and gaunce, a box of aperient pills, and threads and safety pins. These are enclosed in a comparatively small box, and are the things always required by the mother or the new baby; and we should think that the judicious introduction of it to the notice of likely customers will result in business. We note that there is a tag upon the box which is glued down, thus keeping the contents free from contamination by the air until they are wanted.

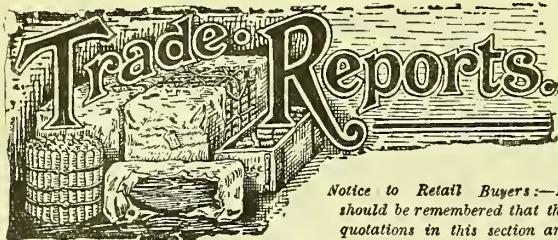
SOAP FOR CHRISTMAS.—It will be observed from an announcement made elsewhere in this issue that Messrs. Edward Cook & Co., of Bow, E., are offering several lines of soaps on specially advantageous terms for the approaching Christmas trade. We call attention to this all the more readily because we have had a recent and renewed opportunity of examining some of them, and we notice that the "Riviera" superfatted soap, of which we spoke highly on its introduction, is now a familiar object in most metropolitan pharmacies. The high quality of this soap is well maintained, as also is that of the "Riviera" shaving-stick. A pretty line for Christmas is the "handy-tablet," a nice cream-coloured soap shaped like a four-leaved clover, four of which are packed into a square case with attractive cover; and here we may say in regard to Messrs. E. Cook & Co.'s packages that they are uniformly artistic, one especially, an oblong basket-box, strikes us as a thing that would sell no matter what was in it, and it is really the contents which the firm give first attention to. We may remind the trade that Messrs. E. Cook & Co. are the makers of the "Hygienic" tooth-tablet, which in so short a time has become one of the favourite popular dentifrices.

"POTENIC TABULES" is the title of a new form of medicine now being introduced by Messrs. Watson & Wates, manufacturing homœopathic chemists, of 93 Leadenhall Street. The sketch shows the exact size and shape of these



medicaments, which are well made and put up in glass tubes. In the case of dry drugs, such as ipecac., sulphur, &c., we understand the medicine is mixed with sugar of milk and compressed. When tinctures have to be used the tables are saturated with a preparation of the required strength. Apparently the intention is to supply appreciable quantities at the same time quite small doses. Unfortunately, the makers do not state exactly what the strength of their tabules is, an omission which we should think they would be wise to rectify.

THE smallest of the many scientific associations in erudite Germany is believed to be the "Association of Directors of Zoological Gardens." Its seven members recently mustered in full strength in Berlin on the occasion of their annual congress.



Notice to Retail Buyers.—It should be remembered that the quotations in this section are invariably the lowest net cash prices actually paid for large

quantities in bulk. In many cases allowances have to be added before ordinary prices can be ascertained. Frequently goods must be picked and sorted to suit the demands of the retail trade, causing much labour and the accumulation of rejections, not all of which are suitable even for manufacturing purposes. Further points which should be borne in mind are that distributor generally has to bear the bulk of the freight-charges on the goods on their way from the producer to the retailer, and that for many articles the range of quality is very wide.

42 CANNON STREET, E.C., September 26.

THE week under review has been marked by a steady, but not very brisk, trade in drugs and chemicals all round. The general tendency towards hardening in prices, upon which we have commented recently, has made further progress, and, as the detailed quotations in our report show, a great many articles are now held firmer and realise better prices than last Thursday. In chemicals the principal feature of importance has been the advance in *Citric acid*, stimulated, no doubt, by the hot summer weather, and also by the advance in the price of the raw material. *Permanganate of potash* is dearer; a moderate business has been done in *Quinine* at a fractional advance in price; and *Santonin* is scarce and rising. *Refined camphor*, *Tartaric acid*, *Glycerine*, and *Cream of tartar* are all exceedingly firm, but show no actual change in price, *Caffeine* is unaltered. *Carbolic acid* very dull. The prices of *Acetanilid* and *Phenacetin*, which have already been mercilessly cut, are again tending easier. In the drug-market general firmness prevails. *Cod-liver oil* has been in request at advanced prices. *Orris-root*, although fluctuating daily, closes at higher rates. *Cumin* and *Caraway seeds* are dearer. There is a big demand for *Tragacanth* at slightly improved rates. Fine *Civet* is said to have realised very high prices. *Menthol* is dearer, and *Angostura Tonka beans* are held for more money. *Scammony-root* remains very scarce, and for best-quality *Turkish resin* higher prices are again reported. There is a strong upward movement in *Italian oils*, particularly in *Lemon* and *Bergamot*. *Oils of star-anise* and *cassia* are unchanged, while the quotations for *Japanese oil of peppermint* and *Oils of lemongrass* and *citronella* have advanced all round. *Cinnamon-leaf oil* is also tending a little higher. No single important drug has declined in price, although the market for *Crude camphor* is perhaps a shade easier. In *Opium* there is no business to speak of passing in London. *Manna* remains very low in price; *Chamomiles* show a hardening tendency. In other articles the principal alterations may be summed up as follows:—*Sugar of milk* is tending higher; *Beechwood creasote* has advanced in price; *Shellac* and *Zanzibar cloves* are slightly firmer; *Soda hyposulphite* has again advanced, and there has been a good trade at firm prices in *Turkish galls*; *Cassia lignea* is slightly dearer and more active; *Turmeric* is lower, and *German potato-spirit* is now quoted at about the lowest figure on record; *Quicksilver* a trifle easier in second-hand. The *Bank rate* still remains 2 per cent. The price of *Bar silver* has again reached $36\frac{3}{16}$ d. per oz., and a fair business has taken place in the article since our last report.

Under the heading "A Few Years in Aloes" (which might have been "A Few Errors in Aloes"), an American contemporary calls attention to the increasing consumption, in the States, we presume, of Curaçao Aloes. Curaçao aloes, and the corresponding falling-off in the use of the other varieties of the drug. The reason is said to be the displacement of aloes gum by aloin (of which Curaçao aloes contains the largest percentage of any variety) in the manufacture of pills. Our contemporary declares that the average proportion of aloin in Curaçao aloes is 10 to 16 per cent., in Cape aloes 4 to 8 per cent. This, of course, is quite wrong, for every druggist knows that Cape aloes contains no aloin at all. Socotrine aloes, we are told, is mostly used as an ingredient of liver-pills, and in proportion as the public have become accustomed to those medicaments, it has grown more risky for the proprietors to reduce the size of their pills, which they would have to do if they employed aloin. "Aloin," says our contemporary, "was first made in 1884." Messrs. T. & H. Smith, who, we believe, exhibited varieties of aloin as far back as the sixties, will be interested to hear this. The average value of Curaçao aloes has declined from 11c. per lb. in 1883-84 to 3c. in 1894-95. The imports into the States have been:—

—	1883-4	1890-1	1891-2	1892-3	1893-4	1894-5
Curaçao .. lbs.	85,855	304,737	181,836	161,629	205,234	179,320
All other kinds ..	135,845	68,027	73,558	126,838	62,161	94,181

Essential oil of Kuromoji appears to be slowly acquiring some degree of popularity among manufacturing perfumers.

Kuromoji Several lots of it have recently passed through the Liverpool market and gone into consumption. Some of the buyers, having noticed that one parcel of oil frequently differs in odour from another, asked the importers for an explanation of this circumstance. Inquiries were therefore set on foot, and have elicited the fact that Kuromoji oil is not produced on a large scale by essential-oil distillers, but by small farmers in Japan, each



of whom distils the yield of the shrub growing on his own estate. These small stocks are then bought up by dealers in various centres and mixed together, almost precluding the possibility of getting exact uniformity in aroma. The oil is obtained from the young shoots and leaves of the

Linderia sericea, Blume (Natural Order *Lauraceæ*), a shrub which grows wild in the mountainous districts of Japan, attaining a height of from 4 feet to 6 feet. The old wood of the shrub is much used for making toothpicks. Our illustration of a leaf-branch is drawn from a herbarium specimen, and is about half the natural size. Kuromoji oil, which was introduced into Europe in 1889 by Schimmel & Co., has been repeatedly mentioned in that firm's reports. According to Dr. Fred. E. Power (Catalogue of non-official essential oils), the oil has a sp. gr. of 0.892, and an opt. rot. of $-0^{\circ} 4'$. It contains dextrogyrate limonene, dipentene, terpineol and levogyre carvol, possesses a pleasant, aromatic, balsamic odour, and is of value in perfumery, especially for soap-making. S. & Co., however, state that the oil is prepared from the wood of the plant.

At the Indian Planters' Conference, which was held in Bangalore recently, the Hon. Mr. G. Romilly, a Wynnaad planter, complained that the Government *Planters v. Government* cinchona-plantations, although started to encourage the cultivation of bark, had for many years been the rivals of private enterprise. He said that the Governor of Madras had admitted that there was no longer any *raison d'être* for the gardens, and had given a pledge not to increase them. When it was suggested, some years ago, that the gardens should be sold, the Wynnaad planters opposed the idea, considering it better, as the gardens were there anyhow, that they should be in the hands of an incompetent Government rather than of competent planters! Subsequently, a quinine-factory was started. This was right; but, now that the Government stock of bark was getting exhausted, Government, instead of replanting the gardens, ought to buy in the open market such stocks of bark as they required. Mr. Romilly concluded by proposing "That the Association make a strong representation to the Government of Madras on the subject of the proposed replanting of cinchona-gardens, and point out that the right course to pursue is to buy the bark they require in the open market." The resolution was seconded by Mr. G. L. Acworth, of Travancore, and carried.

The Central Industrial Union of Germany intend to publish a journal called "German Industrial Advertiser" (*Deutscher Industrie-Anzeiger*), to be printed Germans in Japan. The German Minister of Commerce supports the venture, and has expressed his conviction that a great field may be opened up for German industry in the Japanese markets. The Imperial Printing-office in Berlin will lend its aid in launching the new journal, the translations for which will be undertaken by the Institute for Oriental Languages in Berlin, with the co-operation of several Japanese. Later on it is intended to issue a similar "Industrial Advertiser" for China, printed in the Chinese language. It is said that the idea of these journals originates with the German Minister at Tokio.

While the Germans are thus proposing to attack the Far East by means of trade-papers in the vernacular, the Lyons French Busi- Chamber of Commerce has organised a "Com- ness Enter- mercial exploration Mission," which left prise. Marseilles last week for Tong-King, with the object of establishing direct business-relations between France and Southern China and diverting the trade of South Western China, which now mostly takes its way over Shanghai, to French Indo-China, *via* the Red River. The head of the "Mission" is M. Emile Rocher, who has represented France in Consular capacities in the Far East for twenty-five years and knows the country thoroughly. The French Ministry of Commerce is supporting the undertaking.

The Board of Trade, having been advised that both the aqueous solution of ammonia and ammoniacal gas compressed into liquid form should be classed as Ammonia on dangerous goods, not only on account of the danger of explosion involved when they are contained in vessels not sufficiently strong to withstand the pressure which may be produced by a rise in temperature,

but also on account of the highly dangerous nature of the gas, have issued an order recommending that those liquids when carried on board ship should only be packed in iron vessels which have been carefully tested up to a pressure of 675 lbs. per square inch, and should be stored in a part of the ship beyond the influence of any heat from boilers or furnaces, and remote from the living-quarters.

The Java quinine-factory scheme, after many troubles, is now approaching completion. A syndicate of four gentlemen Java Quinine have sent out a circular saying that they have been supplied with funds for the erection of a factory which they propose to "locate" near Bandoeng. The factory will not purchase bark outright, but charge a fixed price for mannfacturing—viz., 11s. 3d. per kilo for quantities between 400,000 and 600,000 kilos per annum; 10s. 10d. per kilo for quantities between 600,000 and 900,000 kilos; and 10s. for still larger parcels, calculated npon an average of 4 per cent. quinine. It is thought that the Government gardens will assist the factory by sending their bark to it for extraction. The co-operation of many of the largest private planters has also been secured. The factory will commence with an annual capacity of 600,000 kilos bark. It is thought that from 15,000 to 20,000 kilos of the quinine made can be sold in Java and the neighbouring Dutch colonies. The trouble, it seems to us, will be to prevent the prepared quinine from being "slaughtered" on the European markets in the same way as the bark is now, for no provision is made to keep the manufactured product in the control of a central sale-office. On the contrary, it is to be handed back to the planter who supplied the bark, and who will, therefore, be under the same temptation to sell with regard to quinine that has been his andoing in the matter of the mother substance.

The high price of scammony-root and resin, caused, it is said, partly by the prohibition of the export of root from Turkey, and partly by speculation on the part Virgin Scammony. of the large London drug-house, has attracted renewed attention to the drng, which had been absent from our drug-sales for a long time. We have taken the opportunity of testing a typical sample of a parcel of "virgin scammony" offered at auction last week. The lot had rather a baked appearance, but was of good fracture, and yielded a fine grey powder, which showed little evidence of woody or earthy matter, either in grinding or by the acid test. The mean of two assays of the sample gave 78 per cent. of ether-soluble resin, or 3 per cent. above the British Pharmacopœia requirement. There is nothing abnormal about this yield, but in face of the high prices and the tendency to adulteration when such conditions prevail it must be considered satisfactory.

ACACIA.—The recent increase in the price of *Soudan* sorts has checked business. The quotations still remain from 45s. for very common np to 70s. for finest soft pale sorts. Picked Trieste gnms are difficult to sell. Dair to fine seconds are quoted at 6l. 12s. 6d. to 7l. per cwt., good to fine grain at 5l. 5s. to 5l. 10s.

ACETANILID.—Still very low in price, the quotation for bulk being from 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 1s. 1d., while 1-lb. bottles are held about 3d. above that figure. There does not seem to be much room for a further decline, but a strong competition prevails among the makers.

ACID (CARBOLIC).—The market is very quiet, *crystals* 39° to 40° C. being quoted at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 34° to 35° C. at 5d. per lb. For *crude* carbolic acid, 60 per cent., manufacturers ask as much as 1s. 7d. per gallon, but they could not get anything like that figure, and we believe that 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. would be accepted; 75 per cent. *crude* is nominally quoted at 1s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

ACID (CITRIC) has been in strong request, and closes at an advance of about 1d. per lb. on the week. *Lanes' brand* (B.P.) is now quoted at 1s. 3d. per lb. on the spot by the makers, who quote 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. for forward delivery, but are very careful in selling. Business is also said to have taken place yesterday at 1s. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. for forward delivery from second-hand holders. For *concentrated juice*, 15l. 5s. f.o.b., is now said to be the price.

ACID (TARTARIC).—One of the agents for the Continental manufacturers, after having sold a few days ago at the rate of 1s. 1d. per lb., has now raised his price officially to 1s. 1½d. The market is exceedingly firm. The English makers ask 1s. 2d. per lb. on the spot, and 1s. 2½d. per lb. for forward delivery; but the quotation in the last-named position is more or less nominal. Second-hand foreign acid has been sold to-day at 1s. 1¼d. per lb.

ALCOHOL.—German potato-spirit is declining in price, and has now almost touched the lowest figure on record. Good brands may be had at from 6d. to 7d. per gallon, c.i.f. terms, packing extra, in bond.

BEECHWOOD CREASOTE.—Prices have recently been advanced, and the quotation of *foreign* in bulk has been raised from 1s. 9d. to 2s. 2d. per lb. *English* was recently quoted at from 2s. 6d. per lb. up to 5s. per lb., according to quality.

BENZOIN.—There has been a very fair demand for *Siam* gum since the last auctions, and several cases have changed hands at firm prices.

CAMPHOR (CRUDE).—Some business is reported to have been done this week at 20s. 6d. per cwt. c.i.f. for *Formosa* and 20s. per cwt. c.i.f. for *Japan* camphor. Efforts are being made to get Ceylon planters to take up the cultivation of the camphor-tree, a few specimens of which have been growing for some years in the botanical gardens of the island. It is thought that in the parts of Ceylon where the climate is comparatively dry—*Uva*, for example—camphor-trees would be a profitable culture. The great objection, from a planting point of view, is of course the long time which must elapse before the trees become productive, but the same objection was raised years ago against the cultivation of cinchona.

CAMPHOR (REFINED).—The makers' quotations are unaltered, *French* camphor, in small tablets, being held for 2s. 4d. per lb., and an offer of 2s. 1½d. having been refused by the makers. Second-hand *German* bells might still be had at 2s. 0½d. to 2s. per lb., possibly 1s. 11½d. might not be refused in some quarters. There seems to be a good deal of this camphor in the hands of dealers in Hamburg and elsewhere. *English* second-hand camphor, however, is exceedingly scarce, as the refiners have been careful not to sell to any but *bond-fide* consumers.

CAFFEINE.—Unaltered, at 21s. on the spot; the forward quotation remains the same as last week.

CARAWAY SEED.—The price in Holland is advancing, 25s. f.o.b. per cwt. being now the quotation for the present season Dutch seed of fair quality. It is expected that the prices will further advance.

CASSIA LIGNEA.—Dearer. A good demand has sprung up, and about 2,000 boxes of fair usual quality have changed hands at from 31s. to 32s. per cwt.

CINNAMON.—At the end of last week a parcel of 100 bales sold at 9½d. per lb., c.i.f. terms, for August-October shipment.

CIVET.—The supply of fine quality seems to be practically exhausted, but we are informed that a few days ago some genuine civet sold at as large a price as 50s. per oz. Ordinary quality is quoted at from 25s. per oz. upwards.

CLOVES.—Somewhat more firmness has been shown in the Zanzibar clove-market, and sales have been made at 2½d. per lb. for November-January delivery. At auction barely fair to good quality realised from 2d. to 2½d. per lb.

COCHINEAL.—Quiet, with a small business at unchanged rates. The prices of *Tenerife* range, according to quality, at from 1s. 1½d. to 1s. 5d. per lb.

COLOCYNTH.—Good *Turkish* apple is as scarce as ever, and 2s. 3d. per lb. is required for it.

CHAMOMILES.—Good *Belgian* flowers have been quoted as high as 40s. per cwt., although the highest figure at which business has been done is only 39s. per cwt. on the spot. During the last two or three days, however, quotations have again been a fraction easier, the prices now ranging from 37s. 6d. to 40s. per cwt. according to holder.

CREAM OF TARTAR is nominally quoted at a slight advance on the prices given last week, best white French crystals on the spot being now held for 97s. to 98s. per cwt.

or for 92s. per cwt. f.o.b. *Bordeaux*. There are a good many second-hand holders, however, whose stocks cost them much less than the present quotation, and who would be prepared to shade the figures given above. Powder is quoted at 99s. to 100s. per cwt.

CROTON-SEED.—Very scarce, and almost unobtainable on the spot. The value of fair *East Indian* is now from 35s. to 36s. per cwt.

CUMIN-SEED has advanced. We have not heard of any business being done on the spot above the quotations given by us last week, but telegrams from *Malta* quote 40s. to 43s. c.i.f. for new seed, and the spot price has been raised to 42s. 6d. No business has been done above 35s. to 36s. per cwt., however. Heavy buying for German and American account is said to be the cause of the rise.

ERGOT OF RYE—Fairly steady. Ordinary wormy *Spanish* might probably be had at 8d. per lb. on the spot. For good new crop 10d. per lb., c.i.f., is being asked, but there is little offering. *Russian* ergot is firmly held at 7½d. per lb., c.i.f., for new crop, and the spot price is about the same.

FENNEL-SEED.—Quiet, at from 16s. to 18s. per cwt. for *East Indian*.

GALANGAL.—Offering rather more freely; the spot value now runs from 18s. to 22s. according to quality.

GALLS.—The market for *Chinese* galls remains steady, although not much business is reported. There are buyers of fair quality on the spot at 57s. 6d. per cwt., and for shipment about 300 cases have been sold at 51s. 6d. down to 50s. 6d., c.i.f., October-December shipment. *Turkish* galls remain very firm, with a good business at the following prices:—*Blue Bassorah* at 50s. per cwt.; *Green* ditto (very scarce), at 40s. to 42s. 6d.; *White*, 33s. to 40s. per cwt. The coming crop is said to be much below the average. *Smyrna* galls steady at 45s. for good *Blue*, and 37s. 6d. per cwt. for fine *Green*.

GINGER—*Jamaican* exceedingly scarce, and tending higher. There is scarcely anything left in first hands now. *Cochin* dull of sale. Bold cut sold at auction at 68s. to 70s. per cwt.

GLYCERINE.—Still very firmly held, and likely to be advanced further shortly. The lowest manufacturers' quotation is now 55s. per cwt. for double-distilled, s.g. 1.602, and some makers ask as much as 60s. There has been a strong demand both for the crude and the distilled article, the aggregate sales of all kinds in the last fortnight amounting, it is said, to about 4,000 tons. There are still some second-hand sellers at 53s. per cwt., however.

HONEY.—Guaranteed pure, white *Italian* honey, of which the crop is said to have been small, offers at 35s. per cwt. c.i.f. terms.

KINO.—Twenty or forty pounds of fine genuine kino-might still be had, but the price asked is almost prohibitive, —15s. per lb.

MANNA.—We hear that the crop in Sicily is now at an end, rain having set in during the gathering, and stopped the collection. As it is, however, a good average quantity has been obtained; and, as the demand is very slack, prices keep low at the quotations last mentioned by us.

MASTICH—In very large supply and without demand. Some fine pale drop has been sold at 1s. 10d. per lb.

MENTHOL.—The spot quotation remains 13s., and we hear that that price has been actually paid, holders being now disposed to require 13s. 3d. to 13s. 6d. per lb. In Hamburg the market is also very firm.

OIL (CASTOR).—A quiet market with sales of fair quality. Seconds at 2½d. per lb.; Firsts are quoted nominally at 2½d. Best tasteless *Italian* is quoted at 29s. 6d. to 30s. 6d. per cwt. c.i.f. terms.

OIL (COD-LIVER).—A parcel of *Newfoundland* oil, bought in at the last auction, has since been sold at prices ranging up to 5s. per gallon, and there is no more to be had at that price. According to reports from Norway, the market in Bergen is now almost clear of good oil, and the current quotation there is 180s. per barrel for 1895, and 170s. for 1894 oil. In Loudon 167s. 6d. to 170s. per barrel has been paid for best non-congealing 1895 Norwegian, and although

there are still sellers at the last-named figure, higher rates are expected.

OIL (OLIVE).—The price of eating-oil still remains from 3s. 10d. to 5s. 6d. per gallon, according to quality; the market, however, has been very stagnant lately.

OILS (ESSENTIAL).—*Lemongrass oil*, which had been somewhat neglected lately, has become firmer again, and several transactions are reported for arrival. On the spot 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 2d., landed terms, has been paid, and about 400 cases have found buyers at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., rising to 1 $\frac{17}{2}$ d. per oz. "c.i.f." for September-October steamer, and 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ d. per oz. "c.i.f." for September-January steamer shipment. *Citronella oil* offers on the spot at 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 4d. per lb., according to quantity, and for shipment there are sellers at 1s. 1d. c.i.f. terms. *Oil of Cassia* keeps very firm, 7s. 6d. per lb., having been paid for 70 per cent. oil, for which 7s. 9d. is now asked. *Japan oil of peppermint* is tending higher, 40-per-cent. oil, however, might probably still be bought at 7s. 6d. per lb. on the spot, although for demeritised 5s. 9d. is now asked, which is 3d. more than last week's quotation. The advance in *Italian* essential oils which we have reported in the course of the last few weeks continues to make progress. The following are the last quotations:—*Oil of lemon*, from 3s. 3d. to 4s. 6d.; *Oil of bergamot*, from 8s. to 10s. 3d.; *Sweet orange*, 4s. to 5s.; *Bitter orange*, 6s. to 7s., and *Mandarine* from 15s. to 20s. per lb., according to quality, all f.o.b. Messina or Palermo. These prices are for new oils to be shipped any time between the commencement of the season in December until August of next year, at buyers' option. The unfavourable reports with regard to the crops have received further confirmation, and it is expected that the output of all oils will be below the average. There is, however, a big stock of oil, especially lemon, in London, but the bulk is of very common quality. According to the last market reports from China a few small lots of new season's *Cassia* oil had arrived at Canton, but the quality was very inferior. *Oil of star anise* was in small supply and very firmly held, an increase in the quotations being generally expected.

OPIUM.—*Persian* opium, of which the stock is now very low, has been in fair request, with sales of balls at 12s. 6d. and fine bricks at 12s. 9d. per lb. *Soft shipping* is held from 10s. 6d. to 12s. 9d.; good to fine *Smyrna*, 7s. 9d. to 8s. 9d.; *Druggists' seconds* at 7s. 3d. to 8s. 3d.; and *Constantinople* qualities at 7s. 3d. to 8s. 9d. per lb. The market is fairly steady.

ORRIS.—The market has been excited this week, and quotations have varied almost daily, the last reports from Leghorn relating to the *Florentine* variety being to the effect that the crop will be small, as the cultivators, in order to prevent the flooding of the market, have left a good deal of the plant undisturbed. It is, however, said that in Leghorn the market has risen rapidly, 75s. per cwt., f.o.b., being the quotation for sorts, and 78s., f.o.b., for picked root. Quotations of new *Veronese* are expected within the next few days. It is said that they will certainly be higher than last year. The price of the parcel of *Veronese* orris root referred to in our last issue as limited at 65s. per cwt. was 72s. 6d. per cwt. The proprietors of the lot inform us that they sold part of it privately at the last-named figure just before the auctions.

PERMANGANATE OF POTASH.—Prices keep very firm, and as the makers are not able to supply for immediate delivery, the second-hand holders demand the convention price for any supplies they have on the spot; 60s. per cwt. must, therefore, be quoted as the nearest figure for small crystals, but some owners are standing out for 62s. 6d. per cwt.

PHENACETIN.—There has recently been a further disturbance in the market of this article, of which the price has already been brought down very low by competition. Well-known brands are still held for 6s., but we have heard of quotations of 5s. 10d., and even at 5s. 8d., although it is doubtful whether the last price would be accepted.

QUICKSILVER.—Slightly easier in second-hand, which offers now at 7s. 2s. 6d. per bottle, although the importers still ask 7s. 5s.

QUININE has been more active, and closes at an advance of about $\frac{1}{4}$ d. on last week's rates, about 30,000 oz. having found buyers on Monday and Tuesday at 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. for

second-hand German brands in bulk. Business in second-hand, however, is somewhat hampered by the fact that there is only $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. difference now between the manufacturers' price and that of second-hand holders. The market closes very firmly, with few sellers at 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz.

RESORCIN.—Crystals are quoted at 5s. 3d. per lb. for "P. G. III." quality in 1-lb. bottles.

SANTONIN.—The manufacturers appear to have sold out completely for the present, and are practically quoting no prices at the moment; one of them has recently made sales at from 5s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. up to 5s. 5d. per lb., another holder, however, has sold at 5s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. It is difficult to say what the present price is, but some could probably be purchased at 5s. 9d. per lb.

SCAMMONY-ROOT of fair quality has been sold at 40s. per cwt., but more money is now asked. Fine qualities of virgin resin (*Turkish*) are still changing hands at very high prices, 33s. per lb. being reported paid to-day, which marks an advance of 2s. on the week. For English resin 9s. is asked by the makers, but there are second-hand sellers at 8s. 3d. per lb.

SHELLAC.—The market opened quietly this week. At the weekly auctions a small supply was offered, the total consisting of 285 cases, of which 65 sold at fairly steady prices for second *Orange*, but at lower rates for *Button* and *Garnet* lac. The following prices were paid:—*Orange*, bright red partly blocky, to good bright cakey orange seconds, 112s. to 120s.; *Garnet*, ordinary glassy G (offered without reserve), 91s. to 92s.; *Button*, ordinary firsts in circle, 106s.; Common resinous fourths in circle, at 64s. to 65s. per cwt. The price of fair second *orange* (T.N.) on the spot is nominally 118s., and of *Garnet* (A.C.), 107s. per cwt. The market closes with a slightly improved demand on the spot. For arrival, T.N. *Orange*, November-January steamer, is held for 110s. c.i.f. but there are no buyers above 109s. c.i.f.

SODA HYPOSULPHITE keeps firm. It is doubtful whether fair wholesales quantities can be obtained on the spot below 7s. 15s. (kegs), and there is an inclination to ask 8s. For delivery next year quotations are also hardening, 7s. 5s. per ton being the price for kegs. It is generally thought that there will be a further increase in the value as time goes on.

SOY.—Chinese is selling slowly at 12d. to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per gallon for fair quality.

SPICES.—*Arrowroot* remains low in price, but several hundred barrels St. Vincent have been sold privately at a figure which is not reported. At auction ordinary in barrels sold at 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ d. per lb.; fine in tins at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. *Nutmegs* remain steady, at 2s. 1d. per lb. for *Penang* (93), 2s. to 2s. 3d. for West Indian (88 to 83). *Mace* dull of sale; good ordinary *Penang*, 1s. 8d.; medium West Indian, 1s. 6d. per lb.

STAR ANISE—There is very little demand for genuine Chinese seed, which is nominally quoted at from 65s. to 70s. per cwt. Nothing is being offered at present from the producing country.

SUGAR OF MILK.—Good brands are quoted at 60s. per cwt. by the makers, but second-hand holders would probably shade that figure.

TAMARINDS.—*East Indian* very slow of sale, fair quality being offered at the unusually low price of 7s. per cwt.

TONCA BEANS.—Holders of *Angostura* beans are asking very high prices, one of them quoting as much as 9s. 6d. per lb. for fine frosted; the supply of this variety is in a few hands. *Pará* beans steady at 2s. 4d. for good frosted, 1s. 3d. for black, and from 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. for foxy.

TRAGACANTH.—There has been a great improvement in the business of this article lately. Considerably over 1,000 cases have changed hands since our last report, both for home trade and export to the Continent and the States. Prices have not undergone much change, but are likely to advance if the demand should continue. The business has extended for all varieties, fine first white *Persian* being now quoted at 13s. 10s. to 14s.; seconds at 12s. to 12s. 15s. The quotation for thirds is nominal, as the entire supply of this variety is either sold or in the hands of very firm holders.

TURMERIC lower all round. At auction, 1,012 bags were offered, of which 210 sold at 7s 6d. for fair *Cochin* bulb, and for 7s 6d. to 10s. for common to good bright-yellow *Madras* finger.

VARIOUS OILS.—*Palm oil* has advanced to the extent of about 10s. per ton for fine *Lagos*, which is now quoted at 23s. 10s. per ton on the spot. *Olive oil* steady at 33s. for Syrian and 37s. for Spanish oil. *Refined cotton-seed oil* on the spot is held at from 17s. 5s. to 17s. 15s. per ton, according to brand and packing; crude oil offers at 15s. 2s. 6d. on the spot or for delivery up to April. 1896. *Refined rape oil*, 22s.; *Jamba*, 19s. 10s.; *Ravison*, 17s.; *brown oil*, 20s. 10s. to 20s. 15s., according to packing. *Cocoa nut* quiet, at 23s. for fine *Ceylon* on the spot, and 24s. to 24s. 6d. for good to fine *Cochin*. *Linseed* rather quieter, at 20s. 3d. to 20s. 6d. on the spot. *Petroleum* slow of sale: American spot, 5s. 6d. to 6s. 6d., according to brand; and for delivery, September to December, 5s. 6d. to 5s. 11d. per gallon. *Russian oil*, 5s. 6d. on the spot, and the same price for September-December delivery.

The Smyrna Opium-market.

Our latest mail news from Smyrna is contained in two letters, dated respectively September 13 and 14, from different correspondents. The first of these states that speculators have ceased to buy, in consequence of which the weakness has made further progress; the stock continues to increase, and several of the speculators who had joined the party of "bull" operators have begun to see that their policy was a wrong one. There were several orders on the market, but all of them were limited at low rates. The only business transacted during the week consisted of 15 cases, including new *Karakissar* for the Dutch Government at the parity of 7s. 4d., new *Tale quale* at that of 6s. 11d., and new-current *Yerli* at the same figure. The arrivals amount to 2,343 cases, against 1,229 at the same time last year. The other correspondent says that although the opium-market has been weak for a day or two previous to writing, yet speculative holders have bought a few cases at the same parity as the week before in order to maintain figures. A considerable decline in the price of new-current opium can, however, not be delayed much longer owing to the great increase in the arrivals from the interior.

The Amsterdam Market.

The cinchona-bark auctions to be held in Amsterdam on October 3 next will consist of 4,812 bales and 261 cases of Java cinchona, weighing in the aggregate 451,159 kilos. The manufacturing portion of this bark contains an average of 5.3 per cent. of *Sulphate of quinine*, the total weight of that substance being 22,184 kilos. There has lately been an improved demand for *Cananga oil*, of which 113 bottles of good quality have been sold at from 15s. 9d. to 16s. 9d. *Cubes* are quite neglected again, and the stock keeps accumulating. Good quality is nominally worth 20fl. (=33s. 6d. per cwt.). About 1,500 piculs *Cassia fistula* have been sold for shipment at about 87-5fl. (=14s. 9d. per cwt.). The heavy stock, however, is hard to move.

The New York Drug-market.

Our New York correspondent, writing on September 19 says that the week under review has not developed many features of general interest. *Opium* weakened somewhat under the lack of inquiry, and it is reported that sales were made of a few cases as low as \$1.62½; but it soon recovered to \$1.65 to \$1.70, at which the market is dull and lifeless. *Quinine* has not changed as to price, but is rather less inquired for than last week. *Caffeine* has been rather unsteady, offers having been reported for shipment as low as \$6.50; but this option was said to have closed on September 4. Spot goods have gone up gradually, until, at this moment, \$9 is the asking price. *Coca-leaves* have sold for 18c. to 21c. for prime *Truxillo*, while *Huanuco* is quoted at 30c. to 35c. *Camphor* has steadily advanced in sympathy with the crude, and to-day is quoted at 58c. to 60c. for refined. *Star anise oil* is held firmly here at \$1.75 to \$1.80, in sympathy with the advances abroad. *Peppermint oil* is dull, and the market price is rather an uncertain quantity, the quotation depending on the views of the particular holder. Bulk is generally held at \$1.70 to \$1.85. For HGH no change is reported, nor is any demand

of any consequence observed. *Norwegian cod-liver oil* continues firm at \$50 to \$52, but no great activity has yet developed in the demand. *Para balsam of copaiba* is scarce on the spot, and stocks in hand are held firmly at 35c. *Trieste colocynth* is in light supply, and 60c. is wanted for spot goods. *Angostura Tonca beans* have been advanced 10c., and are now firm at \$2.10 to \$2.20, with talk of still higher figures. *Aniline salt* is very firm, at 10½c. to 11c. for spot and 10c. and upward for shipment. December deliveries and later are quoted at 9½c. to 9¾c. *Sumach* is weak, at \$50 to \$53 per ton for Sicilian, and spot supplies are heavy. *Golden-seal root* is in scant supply at the moment, and 18c. is asked for spot goods. *Celery seed* has had a sharp advance to 10c. to 12½c., according to holder. *British heavy chemicals* all round show considerable activity, in sympathy with the improvement in the building trades, which promises to take up all the surplus of window-glass. The glassblowers are, therefore, giving orders for shipment for *Soda ash* and other supplies quite freely.

The Liverpool Drug-market.

Our Liverpool correspondent writing on September 25, says that *Soudan sorts* of acacia gum have been rather dull, with sellers at 47s. 6d. to 55s. per cwt., but only retail transactions. Lower qualities have been in some request, and a fair quantity of *Brazilian gum* has changed hands at steady rates. *African Chillies* are steady at prices ranging from 35s. to 37s. 6d. There has been rather more inquiry for *Tonca beans*, but actual business has not so far resulted. The values of *Para* run from 1s. to 1s. 4d. for blacks up to 2s. 3d. to 3s. per lb. for fine frosted. The stocks of *tonca beans* are now in very narrow compass. *Castor oil* is very steady at 2d. for good seconds *Calcutta castor oil*, 2d. for first-pressure French, and 2d. for Madras good seconds in casks. Ninety-five bales of *Jaborandi* leaves of low grade have been offered at auction, holders' views being about 2d. per lb., but no bids were made. Not much business is passing in *Kola-nuts*, the value of West African being nominally 5½d. to 8d. per lb. *African ginger* is very firmly held at 26s. 6d. to 27s. per cwt. *Canary-seed* remains in about the same position, prime bright Turkish being procurable at 35s. per cwt. *Cream of Tartar* has advanced steadily, and now 97s. is being asked for prime first white on the spot, and quotations for early arrival indicate that a higher range of values will rule at an early date. Several parcels of *Newfoundland cod-liver oil* have arrived, but have been promptly cleared from the quay at private terms. *Chilian anise* is held firmly at 22s. 6d. per cwt. in quantity, sale of small lots being made at 24s. per cwt.

The Liverpool Oil and Chemical Market.

Our correspondent writes on September 25:—The better feeling in heavy chemicals since the recent establishment of an understanding among the makers still continues. In other chemicals business is checked by the high prices which are asked, but on the whole a hopeful feeling prevails, and everything tends to an improvement all round. *Soda Ash*, 3l. 10s. to 3l. 15s. per ton; *caustic*, firm at 6l. 10s. to 7l. 10s. per ton; *bicarbonate*, no change; *crystals*, firm at 2l. 10s. per ton; *nitrate*, firm at 8s. per cwt. *Potash*: *Pot* and *pearl*, moving slowly at 22s. and 37s. 6d. respectively; *chlorate*, no change; *prussiate*, 8d. per lb., and tending upwards; *bichromate*, no change; *hyposulphite*, hardening. *Sal ammoniae*, in fair request at late rates. *Sulphate of ammonia*, weaker at 9s. per ton, f.o.b. *Bleaching-powder*, 7l. on rails. *Cream of tartar*, advancing and scarce.

SAVED BY A CHEMIST.—Mr. J. R. Macleod, chemist, of Crozier Terrace, Homerton, gave evidence in an attempted suicide case heard before the North London Police Magistrate on Thursday. He was walking through the High Street, Homerton, and saw Ada Ward (24), a servant, living in the locality, deliberately lie down in the road in front of a pair of horses attached to a brewer's dray, heavily laden. With considerable promptitude, Mr. Macleod ran to the spot and snatched the girl from beneath the horses' feet. She was consequently not injured; but she said that at the first opportunity she would destroy herself, because her lover had jilted her. Mr. Paul Taylor sent the girl for trial at the Sessions, and bound Mr. Macleod over to appear there and give evidence.

**Memoranda for Correspondents.**

In letters for publication correspondents are requested to express their views as concisely as possible.

Correspondents should write on one side of the paper only, and devote a separate piece of paper to each subject of inquiry.

The name and address of the writer should accompany all communications with, if desired, a distinctive nom-de-plume.

Reckoning Results.

SIR.—Would the gentlemen in Devon and Cornwall (those who have not already done so) who received a circular from our Association during the General Election asking them to interview their candidates, please forward me the result of their efforts, as I wish to tabulate them, for our Conference and Annual Dinner, which will take place in the middle of October next. I remain, dear sir, yours, &c.

September 20.

JAMES COCKS, Hon. Sec.

A New Box Wanted.

SIR.—I beg to suggest to the manufacturers of wooden pill-boxes the want of cheap, light, wooden boxes, capable of holding two or three pounds of a herb, root, &c., having a polished or varnished sliding front. Such boxes would be a boon in the chemists' store-room and would be an improvement to the original packages which are often found there as they come from the wholesale house. The shop drawers are generally uselessly labelled in many old pharmacies for business of to-day; printed, varnished paper labels with Latin and English name of each article might be supplied with the boxes.

Yours sincerely,

Liverpool, September 11.

J. W. H.

Compressed Floral Tablets.

SIR.—In reference to your notice of Messrs. Lloyd's compressed flowers, would you allow me to state, without wishing to detract in any way from Messrs. Lloyd's idea, that Bleasdale (Limited) have been experimenting with a view to produce a fragrant flower-tablet, and we have just about perfected our article. As we may be putting them on the market shortly I mention these facts, as we do not wish it to be thought that we are imitating Messrs. Lloyd.

Yours truly,

G. A. GRIERSON,

Managing Director, Bleasdale (Limited).
York, September 20.

British Columbia Pharmaceutical Association.

SIR.—I should like to correct one or two wrong impressions that might arise through a couple of errors in your editorial re the British Columbia Pharmaceutical Association and the Pharmacy Acts, referred to in your issue of August 24, page 321.

The first one is in justice to our first President, Thomas Shotbolt, Esq., J.P., of Victoria, your statement that Mr. H. McDowell had been the President of our Association since its foundation being wrong. Mr. Shotbolt was the first President, acting in that capacity two terms, until his retirement in 1893. He is still an active and honoured member of the council. The second error is trivial, and applies to the Pharmacy Act. The Act of 1891 only gave two examinations—the Preliminary and Licentiate (Major); the amended Act of 1895 gives three—the Assistants (Minor) being placed in between. Quite a number of English chemists are in this Province, but, as you said in a previous issue, British Columbia is not the "Eldorado" for the pharmacist, as some of them have found out, the writer not being one of them, as his friends in "Cottonopolis" know.

Yours truly,

CHARLES NELSON,

Sec. Registrar, B.C.P.A.

Vancouver, B.C., September 7.

DISPENSING NOTES.

correspondents should consult "The Art of Dispensing" in regard to dispensing difficulties. Difficulties not explained therein may be sent to the Editor, who invites a general expression of opinion upon the under-mentioned topics.

Iodoform and Sanitas.

SIR.—In your issue of August 14, there is a paragraph referring to the various means of covering the objectionable odour of iodoform, and we therefore respectfully call your attention to the fact that that substance is soluble in "Sanitas" oil to the extent of 5 per cent. (in the cold), and that the resulting solution is devoid of the objectionable odour. It may interest some of your readers to be made acquainted with this fact, and to learn of such a solvent for iodoform.

Yours truly,

Bethnal Green, September 19.

C. T. KINGZETT,
Managing Director Sanitas Co.

What is Inf. Rosmarini?

143/18. S. I. N. had the following to dispense:—

Quin. disulphatis ..	..	..	..	gr. xv.
Ac. sulph. dil.	..	..	..	ʒi.
Tr. zingiberis ..	..	..	..	ʒii.
Inf. rosmarini ..	..	..	..	ʒviii.

M.

Is there any recognised formula for infusion of rosemary? [We have searched for one in vain. We should use a 1-in-20-preparation, as that is a strength for infusions which is generally recognised.]

Dispensing Strychnine-mixtures.

SIR.—Herewith I am sending you a bottle containing the last dose of a mixture made up from the prescription given below:—

Lithia cit.	..	..	..	..	gr. v.
Liq. strychniae ..	..	..	..	..	m.v.
Liq. trinitrine (1 per cent.) ..	..	..	..	..	mss.
Aqua ad.	..	..	..	..	ʒj.

M. Ft. dosis. Mitte ʒij.

I dispensed the above mixture, and the patient took several doses without any ill effects. The mixture remained perfectly clear. On a second occasion, a few days afterwards, the patient had the prescription dispensed in another town, and upon taking the last dose but one, a quarter of an hour afterwards he suffered acutely, with every symptom of poisoning by strychnine, in the shape of severe and frequent muscular contractions and a very noticeable affection also of the diaphragm. A doctor was called, and he found it absolutely necessary to stay with the patient for nearly three hours before he dare leave him.

You will notice a crystalline precipitate in the bottle. Can you explain why this should be? Doubtless the precipitate is strychnine in some form. Can it have been caused by the lithia citrate having been alkaline, thus neutralising the HCl of the liq. strychniae, and causing the deposition of the crystals? or has too much liq. strychniae been dispensed? If you can kindly throw any light upon the subject, I should feel much indebted to you. Certainly the patient had a very narrow escape.

Yours very sincerely,

J. B. (151/58.)

[This is an exceptional and serious case, and deserves the careful attention of all dispensers. Whether the lithium citrate was alkaline or not, the fact now is that the filtered mixture is strongly alkaline. Only a drachm of the mixture remained, and the precipitate in it was sufficient in bulk to give the liquid an opalescent appearance. This precipitate gave the reactions for calcium and strychnine; but we failed to get the calcium reaction with the filtered mixture. The facts, however, seem to point to the use of tap-water—an act which cannot be too severely condemned. It is

obligatory to use distilled water in dispensing medical prescriptions. Independent of the Pharmacopœia, this should be the rule with strychnine-mixtures.]

Mist. Acid. Tonic.: A Choice.

SIR.—If "Ben Nevis" will use the following formula for mist. acid. ton. I think he will be right. At least, I have often dispensed it for a medical man as follows:—

Acid. nitro-hydroch. dil...	..	..	..	3 <i>ij.</i>
Ti. calumb.	..	..	..	3 <i>ij.</i>
Aq. chlorof. ad	..	..	..	3 <i>ij.</i>

Brighton, September 20. SCOTIA. (149/65.)

SIR.—I think m. ac. ton. is intended for *mistura acidæ tunicae*, the Charing Cross Hospital formula being—

Dil. hydrochlor. acid..	..	..	..	8 min.
Dil. nitric acid	..	..	..	7 "
Glycerine	..	..	..	½ dr.
Inf. gentianæ to	..	..	..	1 oz.

Yours truly,
CARICA. (149/67)

Dil. hydrochloric acid	..	..	..	10 min.
Dil. nitric acid	..	..	..	13 "
Infusion of gentianæ to	..	..	..	1 oz.

Dover, September 20. J. F. BROWN.

As the formula is a Charing Cross Hospital one we have communicated with Mr. Seymour Pearce, the dispenser, who replies:—

The formula for mist. acid. ton. is—

Acidi nitrici diluti	..	..	..	m <i>vii.</i>
Acidi hydrochlorici diluti	..	..	..	m <i>viii.</i>
Aqua chloroformi	..	..	..	5 <i>ij.</i>
Inf. gentianæ ad	..	..	..	3 <i>ij.</i>

M. Ft. haust.

LEGAL QUERIES.

Immediate information on pharmaco-legal matters is available in "Pharmacy and Poison Laws of the United Kingdom," Alpe's "Handy-book of Medicine-stamp Duty," and THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY.

143/2. *Ebor.*—There is no law to prevent you calling yourself "oculist and optician."

149/66. *W. R.*—If methylated spirit has been sold in your shop, and you are not licensed to sell it, and this is proved, any penalty up to 50*l.* may be imposed. You had better make the best terms you can with the Board of Inland Revenue. They may accept a nominal penalty if you undertake not to offend again.

149/43. *Silver Lining.*—Potass. binoxalas is sal. acetos. It is not a scheduled poison.

150/29. *Dogman* writes:—"If a farmer purchases poison with the intention of poisoning poachers' dogs which have worried and killed his sheep, and the chemist from whom he buys this poison is aware of his intention to use the poison for this purpose, in the event of the farmer being prosecuted for so using it (although both he and the chemist be ignorant that such use is criminal), is the chemist also liable to be prosecuted and punished?" [We should think he is. He was evidently an accessory. Ignorance of the law is no defence.]

140/74. *Kingussie.*—Your arrangement seems to be a very loose one, and your statement of the circumstances is not particularly clear; but, as we understand, A sells an article the cost-price of which was paid by B, and you want to

know whether A may keep the money he gets for the article, apparently as a set-off against some profit B is making on sales of the same article. He may not. He must account to B for the cost of the article, and also for B's share of the profit on it. Then he may claim from B his (A's) share of the profit on what B has sold.

140/60. *Dispenser.*—We do not think the Board of Inland Revenue would regard an ointment labelled "For chapped hands and chilblains" as dutiable, but you had better submit the label to them. A medicine which it is stated "Relieves a cold" is liable; so is one labelled "For colds, headache, &c." Snuffs so recommended would be liable.

147/36. *C. D. C.*—There is a Dentists Act in New Zealand, which requires all practising dentistry to be registered; but, as there is no provision for prosecuting offenders, it is practically a dead letter. An association of dentists have been endeavouring for years to get the law amended.

149/46. *Ebor.*—An original lessee under a lease is liable throughout the term for the payment of the rent and performance of the covenants, notwithstanding any assignment. You are liable, therefore, for the rent, and your remedy is against the person to whom you assigned the lease on the covenant contained in such assignment to indemnify him. We should advise you to make terms with the landlord as quickly as possible.

148/44. *Bad Debts* sends a formal notice-paper, headed "Preliminary Notice for Payment of Debt," which states that, unless the sum of _____ be paid within seven days, an action at law will be commenced for the recovery of the same, and asks if the issue of such a notice by the principal of a business or his manager is legal. [We think there is nothing illegal in the use of the notice in question, if used by the principal himself or by his manager, so long as he makes it clear that he is acting as such. If, however, an outsider were to make use of such a form on a tradesman's behalf, he might possibly be summoned and convicted for contravening the Solicitors Acts.]

147/63. *South* writes:—"In your 1894 DIARY (page 204) you state 'the purchaser of a business pays for the transfer-stamp.' Is it necessary to have such stamp? Also, is an agreement on a sixpenny stamped agreement-paper, together with a receipt for money paid, sufficient when purchasing a small business?" [Where there is no lease or tenancy to be transferred, an agreement operates as an equitable assignment of the goodwill, and a formal transfer is not absolutely necessary. Nothing, however, is saved as regards the stamp, as where the agreement is the final instrument of transfer it must be stamped with *ad valorem* duty. A sixpenny stamp and a receipt would, on possession being given, be sufficient to cover the fixtures and stock, but not the goodwill.]

MISCELLANEOUS INQUIRIES.

With reference to the answer No. 130/27, "J. W. L." (Chartreuse), under "Miscellaneous Inquiries" in our last issue, we have received an official intimation that the process of manufacture of the liqueur de la Gde. Chartreuse has never been divulged, and that the expression "Chartreuse" applies only to the products made by the Rev. Gabriel Alfred Grézier at La Grande Chartreuse, who is the procurator of the monastery of that name. Further, that proceedings will be taken against any person who attempts to use the name of "Chartreuse" in respect of liqueur not manufactured at La Grande Chartreuse.

135/66. *H. Smith.*—Impure Drugs in Mincing Lane.—We cannot trace the transaction you refer to.

79/93. *Pepsina*.—You are much too clever—after the event. We are not able to penetrate into the hidden meanings of things, particularly queries which are not clearly expressed. Scale Pepsins are made by evaporating to a syrupy condition a hydrochloric solution of the scrapings or internal portion of pigs' stomachs, scaling the syrup, and drying. To make that non-hygroscopic it is necessary to mix with sugar of milk, as directed by the U.S.P., or with sugar of milk and an absorbent powder, such as rice-flour or powdered liquorice. One part of dried rice-flour is sufficient to keep the same weight of pepsin in good condition. Most of the Powdered Pepsin is not, however, made in this way, but is simply the dried scrapings, which, of course, contain much matter that is absorbent when dry, and so keeps the pepsin longer than the scale kind can be kept.

140/10. *W. B.*.—Tarragon Vinegar.—See *C. & D.*, August 17, page 305. It is used as a condiment.

140/26. *Index*.—Weed-killer.—Common washing-soda may be used instead of caustic soda. The latter can be bought in lumps at about 12s. per cwt. Instead of boiling, you may make the solution by pouring boiling water upon the ingredients, and stirring several times every day for a week or ten days. Sulphate of copper colours it nicely.

137/56. *Water-still*.—There is a description of a still in our Summer issue, which would suit you. You must get permission from the Excise authorities to use a still, and if the distilled product is to be used in trade you must take out a licence.

137/46. *L. B.*.—We are not aware of any recorded statements regarding the Therapeutic Properties of Cotton-seed Oil; but we presume that, like all fixed oils, it will act as a laxative if taken in sufficient quantity. There is no laxative principle in purified cotton-seed oil, and the laxative effect will simply be due to excess of oil getting into the bowels, producing slight irritation and (in the lower bowel) lubrication.

137/67. *Alpha*.—Pills for Piles and Gravel:—

Resin, podophyll.	..	..	..	..	gr. ij.
Potass. nitrat.	..	..	..	..	ij.
Pulv. seillae	..	..	..	..	ij.
Pil. rhei co.	..	..	..	..	ij.

Mix, and divide into 20 pills.

Dose : A pill night and morning.

131/62. *Galen*.—Your specimen is *Cnicus arvensis* (creeping plume thistle).

141/21. *C. A. H.*.—Glycerine-and-Litharge Cement is very good for metal surfaces. Make the litharge into a cream with glycerine, and use cold.

140/69. *M. C. C.*.—Please look again—"the above quantity of essence" is quite plain in our copy of the DIARY.

146/11. *Nomen*.—Both belladonna and gelsemium have an action upon the bowels—that is, they stimulate the muscular coating—and we can quite imagine that the continuous use of a neuralgic mixture containing these will cause the unnatural straining to which you refer.

144/41. *Sambucus*.—Carbolised Wheat-dressing :—

Powdered sulphate of copper..	..	..	1 lb.
Crude carbolic acid ..	..	..	1 oz.

Mix, dissolve in 1 gallon of boiling water, and dilute to 20 gallons.

144/50. *Cymro*.—Paraffin Hair-wash is simply a petroleum spirit perfumed.

142/18. *W. I. G.*.—The sample of Hair-lotion contains soap. You will make a similar article if you use—

Liq. ammoniac (B.P.) ..	..	..	..	3ij.
Sap. animalis ..	..	..	..	3j.
Aq. ad ..	..	..	..	3xx.

Dissolve the soap in the water, filter, and add the liq ammoniac.

Your sample does not contain quillaia.

141/29. *Rhei*.—(1) Aromatic Quinine-and-iron Tonic, not containing any poison:—

Tr. ferri perchlor.	..	..	..	..	5iv.
Ac. phosph. dil.	..	..	..	..	5ij.
Quin. sulph.	..	..	..	..	gr. x.
Tr. carminativ. (B.P.C.)	..	..	..	..	5j.
Aq. distillat. ad.	..	..	..	..	3xx.

M.

(2) Antifebrin as Headache powders.—There is no reason why antifebrin should not be put up in 10-gr. doses as a headache-powder in accordance with enclosed labels; 8 gr. of phenacetin would answer the same purpose, and in certain cases be more efficient.

142/70. *R. W. L.*.—Cheap Insect-powder.—The sample sent consists of the ground flowers of various species of pyrethrum. The price will depend upon your market and the quantity bought at a time.

140/45. *Confectionery*.—The Colours Used to Colour Sweets are generally of a vegetable nature: cochineal, carmine, and solution of chlorophyll. These are all readily obtainable through the wholesale houses. The cheaper qualities of sweets are often coloured with aniline colours; but there are better colours obtainable, which are made by mixing various primary vegetable colours.

141/56. *Corks*.—(1) The only Corks of Marketable Value are aerated-water and champagne corks; these are bought by jobbing corkcutters and cut up and sold as phial-corks to dispensary doctors and third-rate chemists at about sixpence or less a gross. (2) Blacking for Boots requiring no polishing.—See "American Boot-polish," page 401, March 17, 1894.

144/42. *H. C.*.—To Remove Superfluous Hairs from the Face.—See good formulae under "Depilatories," page 361, DIARY, 1894. There is a method by electrolysis, but it requires an expert to do it successfully.

139/10. *Subscriber* has a valuable horse, very fast and willing, and good in every way. He brushes his hind pasterns. He has tried altering the shoes. Does no good. He used Boots without effect. What is to be done? [Before resorting to blister we would recommend the following.—The outside heel and quarter on the *injured* leg should be lowered, and the *offending* foot should be shod with a shoe feathered on the inside and no nails past the toe, and re-set every three weeks.]

151/46. *Ficus (Baden)*.—See *C. & D.*, December 9, 1893, page 845.

151/43. *Chemist*.—Cachets are charged the same price as powders—1s. to 1s. 6d. per dozen. In regard to the apparatus please write to those who advertise them in the *C. & D.*.

145/70. *Agricola*.—Wound-store.—See *C. & D.*, July 6, page 40.

139/52. *F. D.*.—We supply back numbers at 4d each. As already explained to you, we cannot reprint formulae published recently because you have mislaid the numbers containing them.

145/68. *A. K. C.* (Glasgow).—Sulphur *Lotum* is sublimed sulphur sifted and washed with weak ammonia and water.

145/5. *A. L. W.*—A mixture of 2 parts of chalk and 1 part of powdered acacia is sometimes used for stiffening bandages.

142/27. *Elm.*—The sample which you send seems to be a mixture of turpentine and boiled linseed oil. It is certainly not the latter in a pure state.

146/51. *H. G. G.*—Cement Pestle handles.—The following we have found to be the best way:—Heat well both parts of the pestle (head and handle) in an oven, and meanwhile melt some shellac. Fill the hole in the head with the liquefied shellac, and press in the handle. The handle should have a little tow twisted round it before it is put in the oven. This helps to secure it.

146/58. *E. L.* (New Orleans).—We have not the formula for elixir alimentaire (*Ducro*), but the following recipe of Petit's for Elixir of Peptone may suit your purpose:—

Peptone	3iv.
Sugar	3iiss.
Rectified spirit	3j.
Port wine..	3iv.
Water	3ii.

Dissolve the peptone in the water, add the sugar and the wine, and, when the sugar is dissolved, the spirit.

146/70. *Aqua.*—Your query has been the subject of recent correspondence in this journal.

146/8. *Nunquam.*—Our objection to the use of sulphites as a Cider-preservative is that liberal use of the cider acts unduly upon the skin of many persons, bringing out eruptions. You will find formalin in every way much better.

146/15. *J. T.*—Toilet-vinegar.—See *C. & D.*, February 10, 1894, page 233; also a note on page 305 of the current volume.

145/73. *Atramentum.*—Blue-black Ink.—See *C. & D.*, April 6, 1895, page 508.

148/54. *Inspector.*—(1) See reply to "Alpha" in our issue of September 21. (2) We must repeat what we said in the Educational number regarding Excise appointments—Consult the "Civil Service Guide." Laboratory probationers have not to pay for their education at South Kensington. But there are many things in which you must be better up before you get that length—e.g., your handwriting.

148/19. *Beta.*—Gelatine-coated Horse-balls.—Dip first one half of the horse-ball, and when that is dry the other, in one of the gelatine coating-solutions mentioned in the "Art of Dispensing."

148/17. *Mortar.*—The correspondence which has been printed in this journal regarding the Fracture of Glass Mortars all goes to show that sudden crystallisation of the silicate is another name for the fracture. Doubtless there are points of crystallisation which, on touching or by some other means, set the whole thing off. We do not think that hypophosphites have anything to do with it chemically, although it is curious that fracture seems to take place generally when hypophosphites are being dissolved. Sudden and great decrease of temperature, caused by the solution in the mortar, would in some cases suffice to cause fracture.

148/25. *Fides.*—We do not know how much strychnine a 3d. packet of Battle's Vermin-killer contains. Why not try for yourself? You may be able to dissolve it all out with an ounce of S.V.R.

141/33. *H. N. C.*—You should send direct to T. Christy & Co., 25 Lime Street, E.C., for the book.

149/46. *T. B.*—(1) Creta preparat. is better for ointments than creta precip. The latter is crystalline, and irritates wounds. Why should you add 20 per cent of chalk to an Ointment for General Use? It can do little good, and may do harm. Better to give boric ointment. Chalk is an excellent absorbent, especially for ulcers, but it should be made into a paste with olive or linseed oil, when it comprises 80 to 85 per cent of the bulk of the ointment. (2) Green Ointment for sore breasts, &c., is elder ointment. Copper sulphate is a dangerous ingredient for ointments.

133/23. *W. S. D.*—Salicylic acid, 1 gr. to the ounce, should suffice to keep your herb-beer extract and sauce. It generally does, but you give us no idea of the composition of your preparations, so that we cannot be sure that it will.

150/16. *Major Student.*—We shall deal further with the medical-student matter. As to your own case, the hospital secretary means you to pass the whole of the Preliminary examination in December. The difference in the fees is undoubtedly accompanied by other differences. Guy's, St. Bart's, and St. Thomas's are reckoned the best hospital medical schools. We consider a medical degree preferable to a diploma; so do doctors themselves.

INFORMATION SUPPLIED.

For this section we are always glad to receive from subscribers brief notes on practical subjects, recipes which have been found good in practice or which have required modification, and hints or fresh ideas on any pharmaceutical or trade matter.

Books on Glue-manufacture—"Oss," who recently inquired for the above, will find "Cements, Pastes, Glues, and Gums," by H. C. Standage, a useful work. It is published by Crosby Lockwood & Co. at half-a-crown.

INFORMATION WANTED.

The Editor invites, on behalf of inquiring subscribers, postcard replies to the following:—

- 143/27. Who are the makers of "Ship" roll toilet-paper?
- 146/1. Who makes Errard's tooth-forceps?
- 150/45. Anchor Brand bottles: who is the maker?
- 152/9. Maker or English agent for Savary's liquid extract of mustard?
- 153/18. Maker of cajuput glycerine jelly.

Next Week.

Secretaries of societies will oblige by communicating to us as early as possible their arrangements for the coming session, and thereafter from week to week notices for this section.

Wednesday, October 2.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C. Opening of the session. Presentation of prizes and medals to last session students and of the Hanbury Medal, and address to the students by Professor F. T. Roberts. At 3 P.M.